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JULY

THE NEW MUTANTS

SUNSPOT
vs. the
GLADIATORS
to the
DEATH!

"Shadamedafas"

(I TRAVELED 369,484,278,025 MILES FOR REESE'S PIECES.)

So he buys quite a few to take back with him. He says his mother loves the out-of-this-world peanut butter taste of Reese's Pieces and so does XYTOPUV, his cousin.

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MEANWHILE,

BACK AT THE MANSION...

WESTCHESTER COUNTY AIRPORT...

...ON A QUIET WINTER'S MORNING, WHEN A MILD, ON-GOING SNOWFALL HAS CUT BACK FLIGHT OPERATIONS TO A MINIMUM AND THOSE PILOTS AND PASSENGERS WHO HAVEN'T HEADED HOME -- ON HEARING THE WEATHER FORECAST THAT THIS STORM IS EXPECTED TO WORSEN INTO A BLIZZARD--

--HAVE TAKEN REFUGE IN WINGS OF WESTCHESTER, THE TERMINAL LOUNGE, TO TALK SHOP AND SPIN EVER MORE OUTRAGEOUS YARNS OVER HOT SPICED CIDER OR HOTTER, SPICIER TODDIES.

BUT THEN, WITHOUT WARNING, AMIDST THE HUSTLING, BUSTLING LAUGHTER AND GOOD CHEER...

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A **STAN LEE** PRESENTATION -- STARRING THE **NEW MUTANTS**

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GATE 13

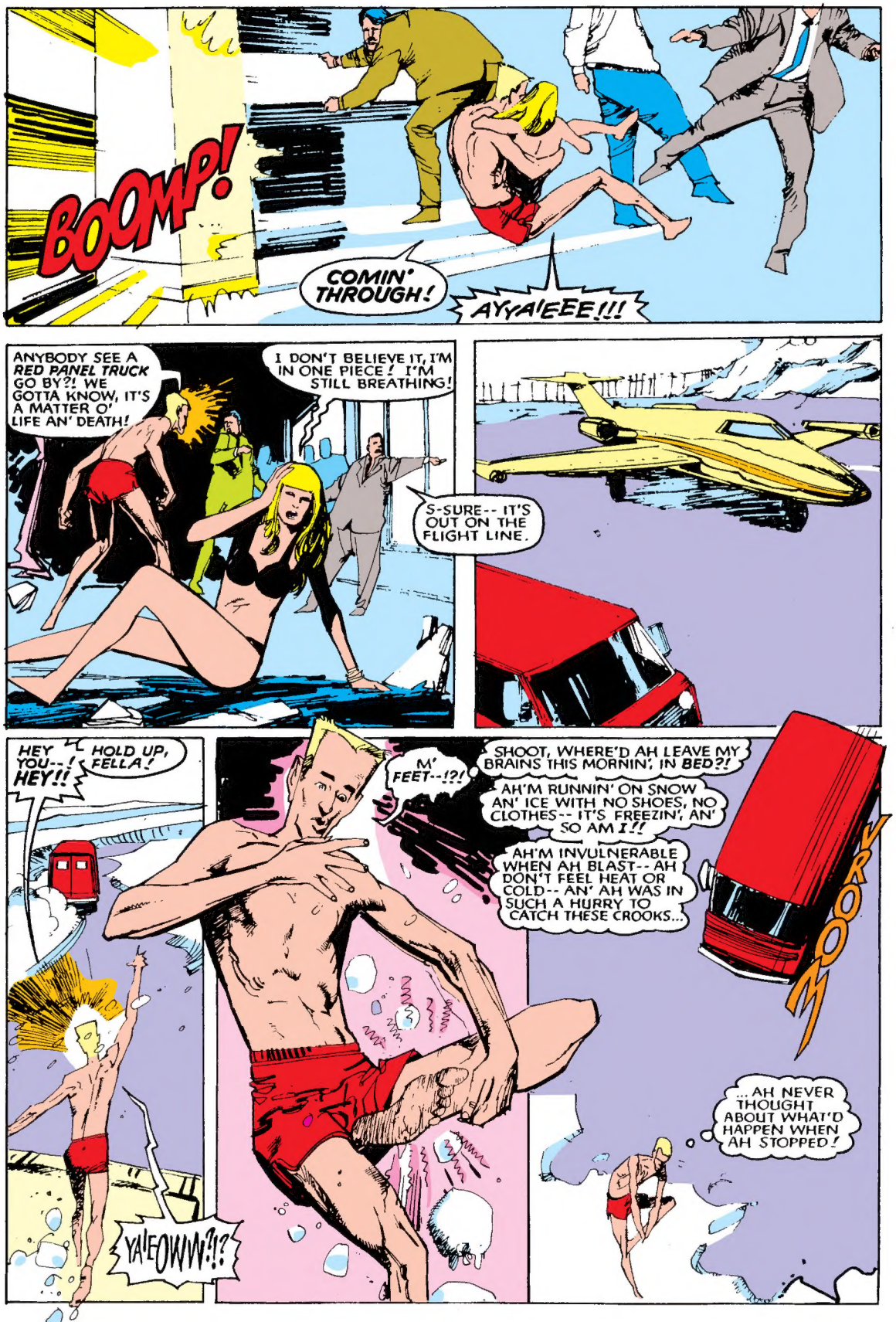
GREAT, SAM-- THE PROF'S GONNA *LOVE* HEARING ABOUT *THIS!*

GANGWAY!

THE YOUNG MAN IS SAM GUTHRIE-- CO-LEADER OF THE NEW MUTANTS, A BAND OF NOVICE TEEN-AGE SUPER HEROES. ILLYANA RASPUTIN'S A TEAMMATES.

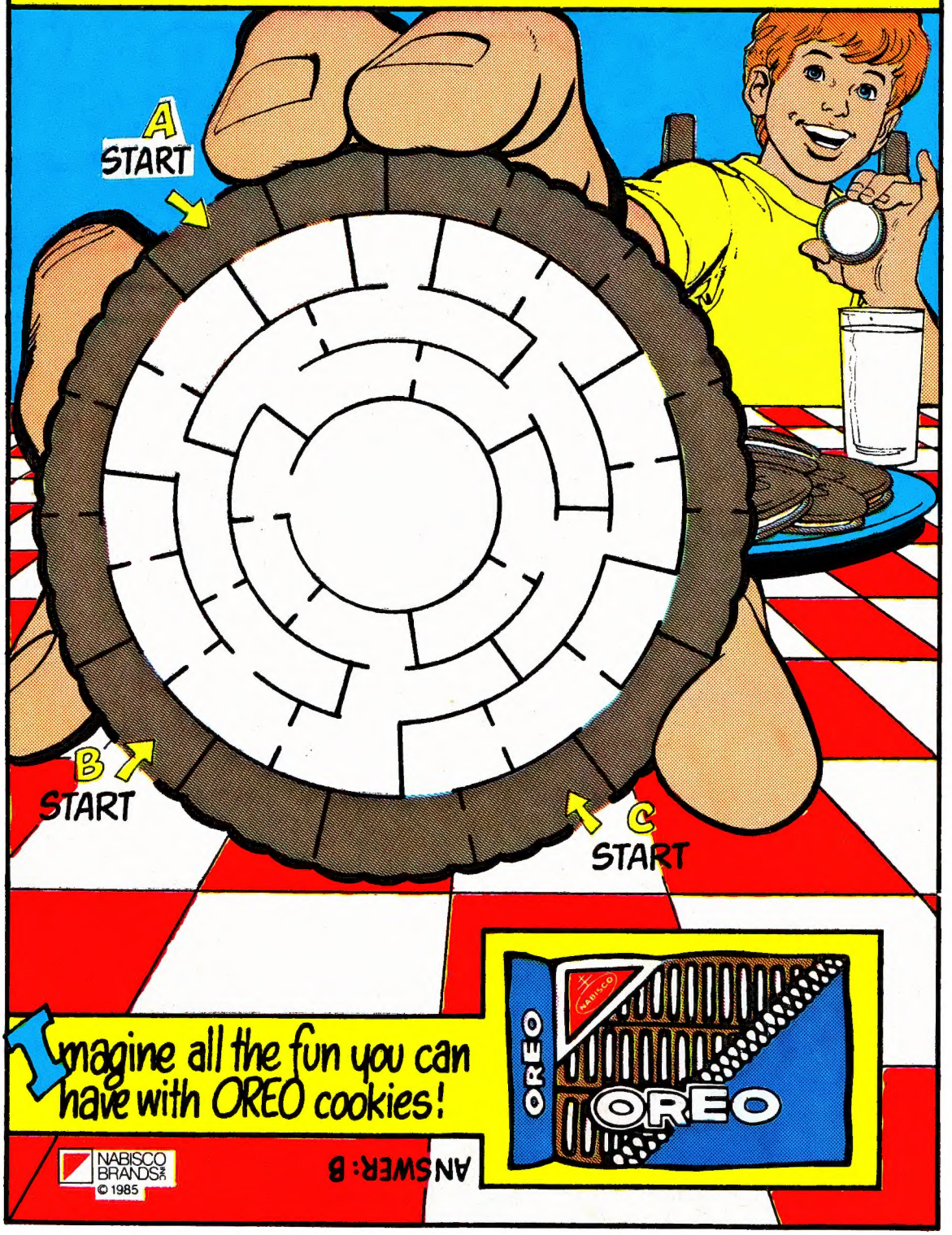
THEY'RE BOTH MUTANTS, WHICH MEANS THEY WERE BORN WITH THEIR ABILITIES. SAM CAN BLAST THROUGH THE AIR-- AND PRETTY MUCH ANYTHING ELSE THAT GETS IN HIS WAY (ALTHOUGH, REGRETTABLY, NOT ALWAYS WITH THE GREATEST OF EASE.) SHE'S A DEMON SORCERESS-TELEPORTER.

AT THE MOMENT, THEY'RE IN VERY HOT PURSUIT OF SOME VILLAINS, WHO'VE JUST KIDNAPPED TWO FELLOW STUDENTS AT PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS: ROBERTO DaCOSTA AND AMARA AQUILLA.


BOOMP!
COMIN' THROUGH!
AYYA'EEE!!!
ANYBODY SEE A RED PANEL TRUCK GO BY?! WE GOTTA KNOW, IT'S A MATTER O' LIFE AN' DEATH!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT, I'M IN ONE PIECE! I'M STILL BREATHING!
S-SURE-- IT'S OUT ON THE FLIGHT LINE.
HEY YOU--! HEY!!
HOLD UP, FELLA!
YA'EOWW?!?
M' FEET--!?!
SHOOT, WHERE'D AH LEAVE MY BRAINS THIS MORNIN', IN BED?!
AH'M RUNNIN' ON SNOW AN' ICE WITH NO SHOES, NO CLOTHES-- IT'S FREEZIN', AN' SO AM I!!
AH'M INVULNERABLE WHEN AH BLAST-- AH DON'T FEEL HEAT OR COLD-- AN' AH WAS IN SUCH A HURRY TO CATCH THESE CROOKS...
VROOOM
...AH NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT'D HAPPEN WHEN AH STOPPED!

WHICH WAY?

TO THE CREAMY CENTER
OF A CRUNCHY OREO® CHOCOLATE SANDWICH COOKIE.



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ANSWER: B

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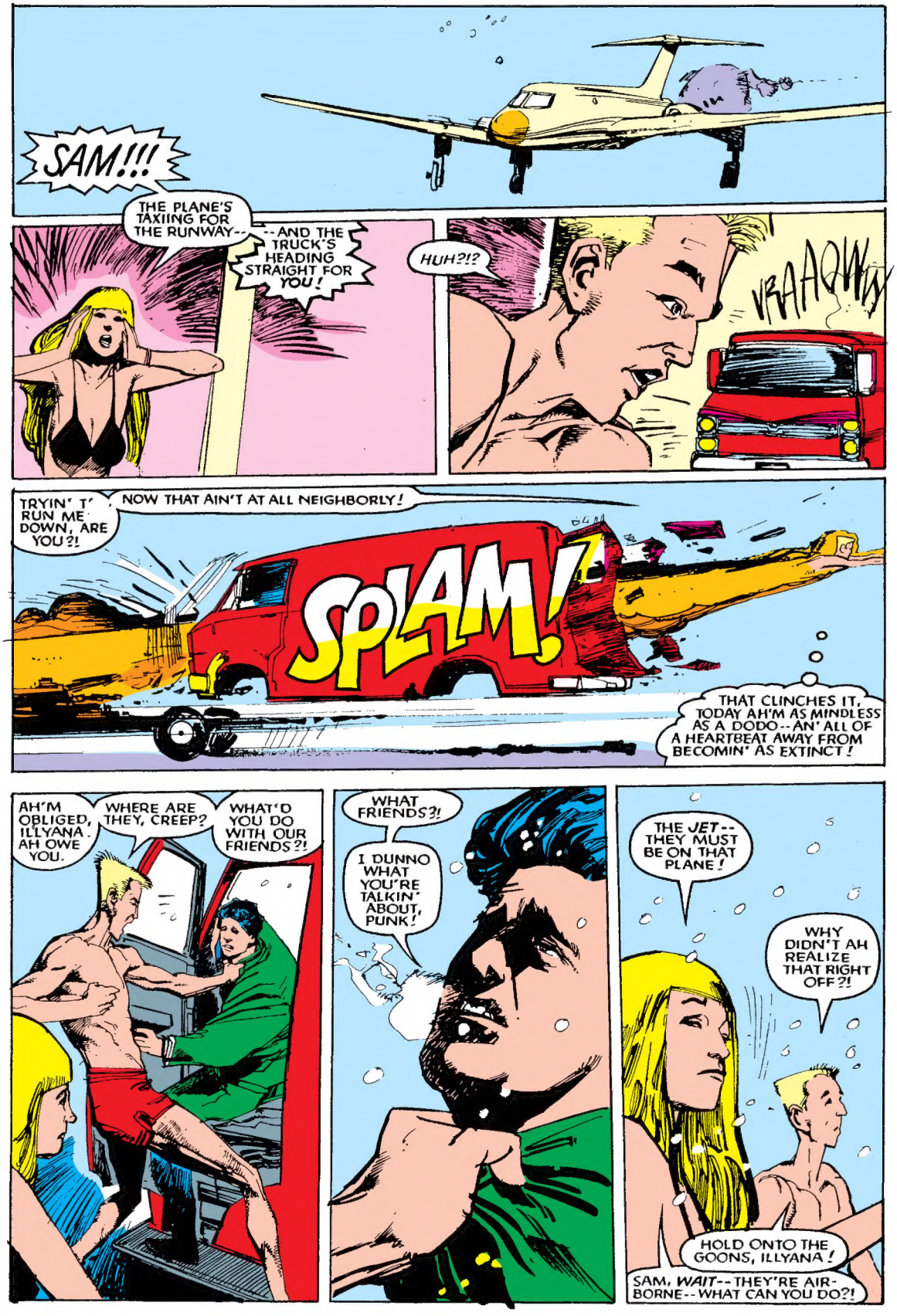
SAM!!!
THE PLANE'S TAXIING FOR THE RUNWAY--
--AND THE TRUCK'S HEADING STRAIGHT FOR YOU!
HUH?!?
VRAAOWW
TRYIN' T' RUN ME DOWN, ARE YOU?!
NOW THAT AIN'T AT ALL NEIGHBORLY!
SPLAM!
THAT CLINCHES IT, TODAY AH'M AS MINDLESS AS A DODO--AN' ALL OF A HEARTBEAT AWAY FROM BECOMIN' AS EXTINCT!
AH'M OBLIGED, ILLYANA. AH OWE YOU.
WHERE ARE THEY, CREEP?
WHAT'D YOU DO WITH OUR FRIENDS?!
WHAT FRIENDS?!
I DUNNO WHAT YOU'RE TALKIN' ABOUT, PUNK!
THE JET--THEY MUST BE ON THAT PLANE!
WHY DIDN'T AH REALIZE THAT RIGHT OFF?!
HOLD ONTO THE GOONS, ILLYANA!
SAM, WAIT--THEY'RE AIR-BORNE--WHAT CAN YOU DO?!

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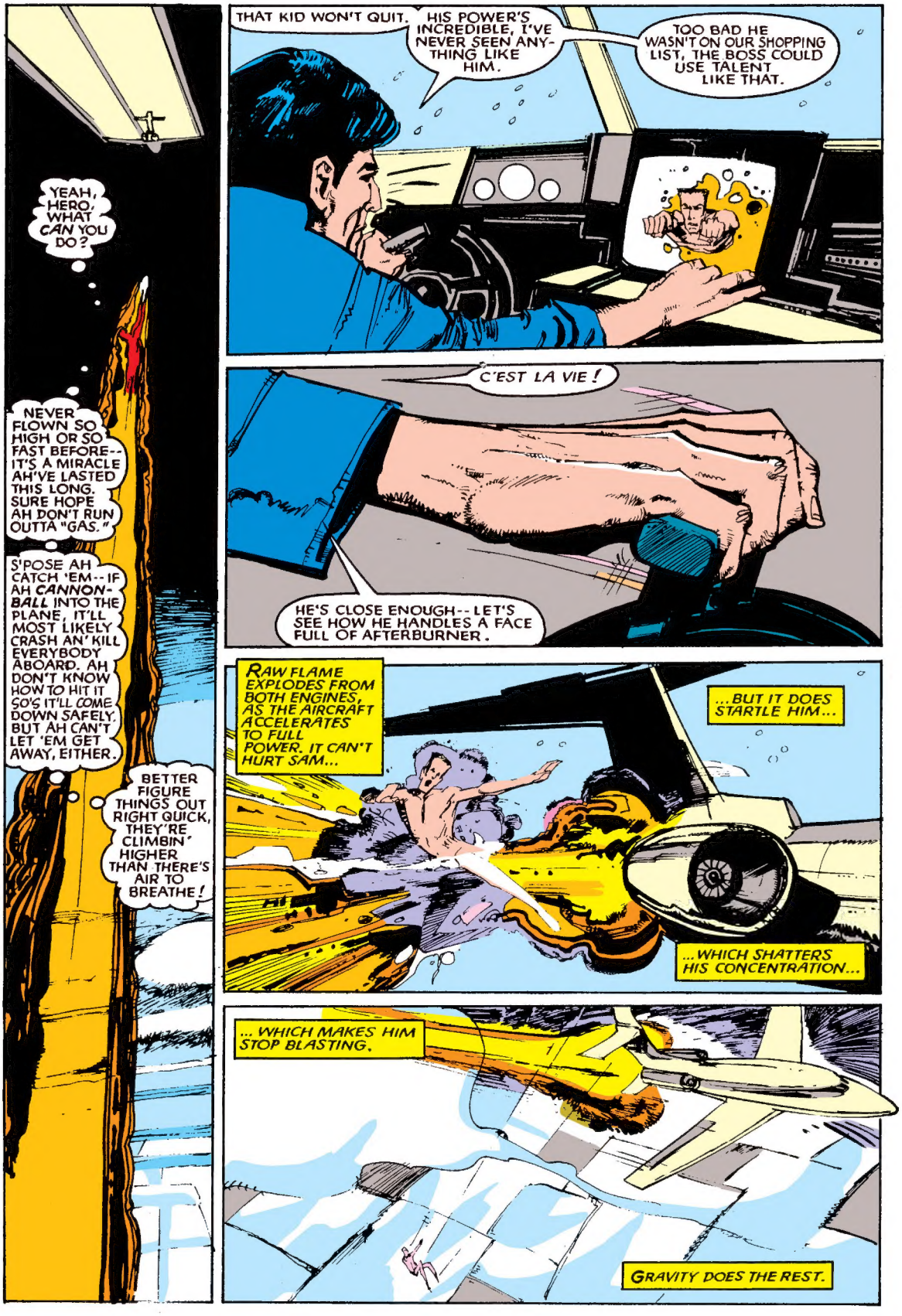
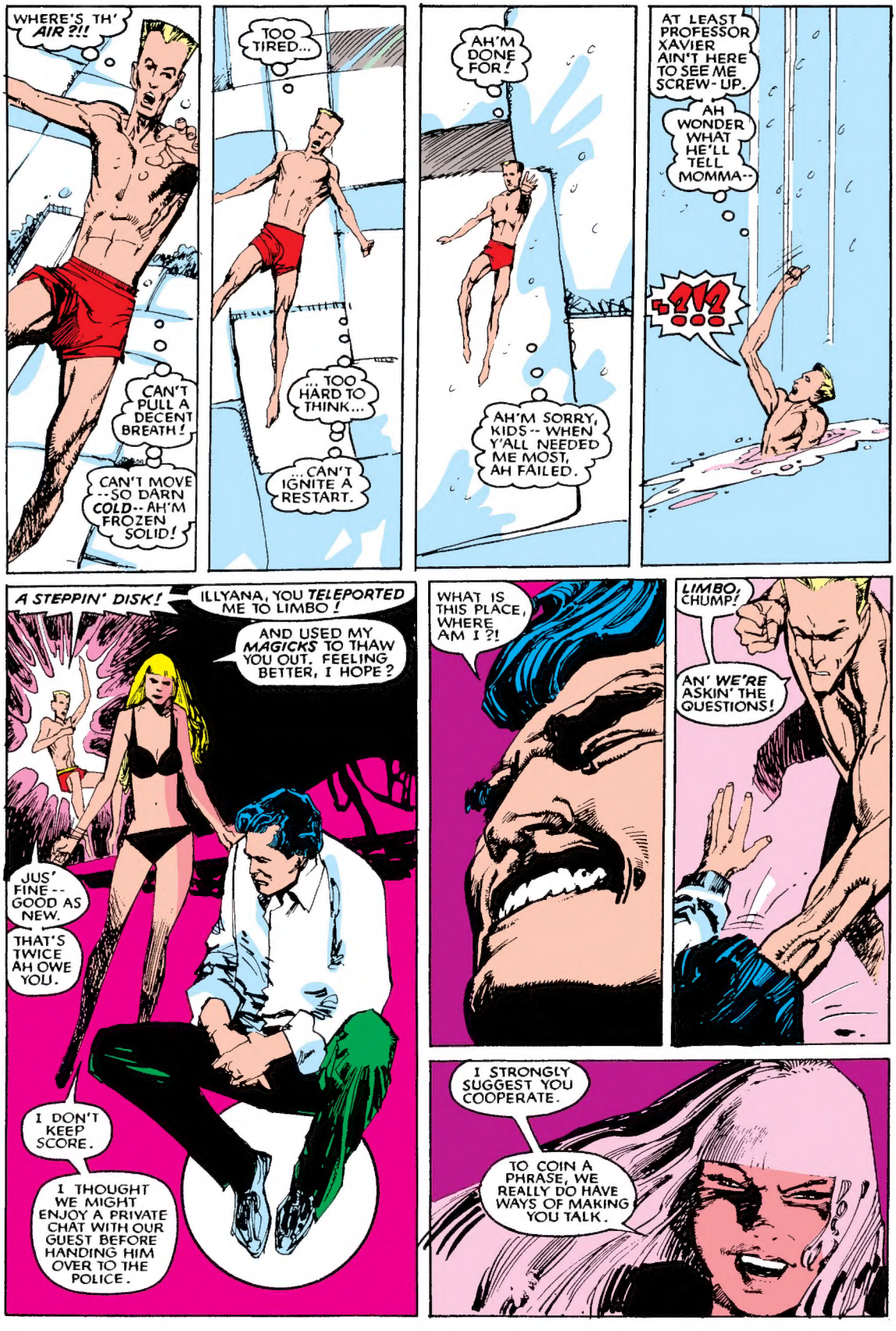
Winner verification of H. Olsen & Co., an independent judging organization will be final. All submissions are property of Tootsie Roll Industries.
Game open to residents of USA, except employees and their families of Tootsie Roll Industries, and its advertising and promotional agencies. Void wherever prohibited. Proof of eligibility and advertising consent may be required. No substitutions of prizes. Taxes are responsibility of winners. Prizes won by minors will be awarded to parent or legal guardian.
Odds of winning bicycle are 1 in 8600. Odds of winning Stereo Cassette player are 1 in 2150. Odds statement based on presence of one rare numbered joke for the AM/FM Stereo Cassette player and two rare numbered jokes for bicycle. Limit one prize per household. 5,000 bicycles and 20,000 AM/FM Stereo Cassette player prizes will be available. Total prize value $1,250,000.


YEAH, HERO, WHAT CAN YOU DO?
NEVER FLOWN SO HIGH OR SO FAST BEFORE-- IT'S A MIRACLE AH'VE LASTED THIS LONG. SURE HOPE AH DON'T RUN OUTTA "GAS."
S'POSE AH CATCH 'EM-- IF AH CANNON-BALL INTO THE PLANE, IT'LL MOST LIKELY CRASH AN' KILL EVERYBODY ABOARD. AH DON'T KNOW HOW TO HIT IT SO'S IT'LL COME DOWN SAFELY. BUT AH CAN'T LET 'EM GET AWAY, EITHER.
BETTER FIGURE THINGS OUT RIGHT QUICK, THEY'RE CLIMBIN' HIGHER THAN THERE'S AIR TO BREATHE!
THAT KID WON'T QUIT.
HIS POWER'S INCREDIBLE, I'VE NEVER SEEN ANY-THING LIKE HIM.
TOO BAD HE WASN'T ON OUR SHOPPING LIST, THE BOSS COULD USE TALENT LIKE THAT.
C'EST LA VIE!
HE'S CLOSE ENOUGH-- LET'S SEE HOW HE HANDLES A FACE FULL OF AFTERBURNER.
RAW FLAME EXPLODES FROM BOTH ENGINES, AS THE AIRCRAFT ACCELERATES TO FULL POWER. IT CAN'T HURT SAM...
...BUT IT DOES STARTLE HIM...
...WHICH SHATTERS HIS CONCENTRATION...
... WHICH MAKES HIM STOP BLASTING.
GRAVITY DOES THE REST.


WHERE'S TH' AIR ?!!
CAN'T PULL A DECENT BREATH!
CAN'T MOVE --SO DARN COLD-- AH'M FROZEN SOLID!
TOO TIRED...
... TOO HARD TO THINK...
...CAN'T IGNITE A RESTART.
AH'M DONE FOR!
AH'M SORRY, KIDS -- WHEN Y'ALL NEEDED ME MOST, AH FAILED.
AT LEAST PROFESSOR XAVIER AIN'T HERE TO SEE ME SCREW-UP.
AH WONDER WHAT HE'LL TELL MOMMA--
-!!!
A STEPPIN' DISK!
ILLYANA, YOU TELEPORTED ME TO LIMBO!
AND USED MY MAGICKS TO THAW YOU OUT. FEELING BETTER, I HOPE?
JUS' FINE -- GOOD AS NEW.
THAT'S TWICE AH OWE YOU.
I DON'T KEEP SCORE.
I THOUGHT WE MIGHT ENJOY A PRIVATE CHAT WITH OUR GUEST BEFORE HANDING HIM OVER TO THE POLICE.
WHAT IS THIS PLACE, WHERE AM I?!
LIMBO, CHUMP!
AN' WE'RE ASKIN' THE QUESTIONS!
I STRONGLY SUGGEST YOU COOPERATE.
TO COIN A PHRASE, WE REALLY DO HAVE WAYS OF MAKING YOU TALK.

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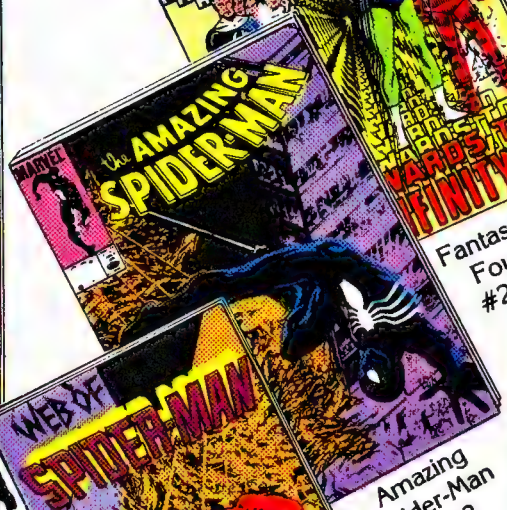

Amazing Spider-Man #268

Web of Spider-Man #6

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BIG HAIRY DEAL-- I'M SUPPOSED TO BE SCARED OF A COUPLE'A SKINNY GEEKS?!
DO YOUR WORST, SWEETHEART, YOU DON'T GET WORD ONE FROM ME!
I ADMIRE YOUR COURAGE, MISTER, REALLY I DO-- ESPECIALLY SINCE YOU'RE ABOUT TO GET A CHANCE TO PROVE IT.
BUT YOU MISUNDERSTAND. NEITHER SAM NOR I WILL HANDLE YOUR INTERROGATION.
SHE LEAVES THE DIRTY WORK TO S'YM.
I'LL TALK!
SOMETIME LATER...
WE CAN'T DO THIS ON OUR OWN, IT'S CRAZY!
WHAT CHOICE HAVE WE?!
THE PROFESSOR AND THE X-MEN ARE AWAY-- BY THE TIME WE GATHER EVERYBODY, BOBBY AND AMARA COULD BE ANY-WHERE! SAM, THEY COULD BE DEAD!!
OUR BEST BET IS FOR ME TO TELEPORT US AFTER THEM, WE MIGHT EVEN BEAT THAT JET TO L.A.
YOU CAN'T CONTROL YOUR POWER OVER THOSE KINDS OF DISTANCES!
I CAN TOO, I'VE BEEN PRACTICING!
FAMOUS LAST WORDS.
YOU GOT A BETTER IDEA?! YOU'RE THE TEAM LEADER, YOU COME UP WITH SOMETHING!
WHILE S'YM'S MISTRESS IS AWAY, YOU'LL BE LEFT IN S'YM'S TENDER CARE-- LOOKIN' FORWARD TO THAT, eh, GONNA BE A LOTTA FUN? O'COURSE, SHE DON'T COME BACK--
--OR WORSE, COMES BACK MAD...

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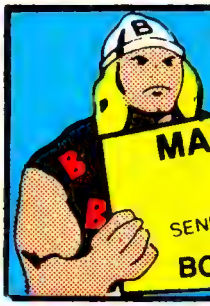

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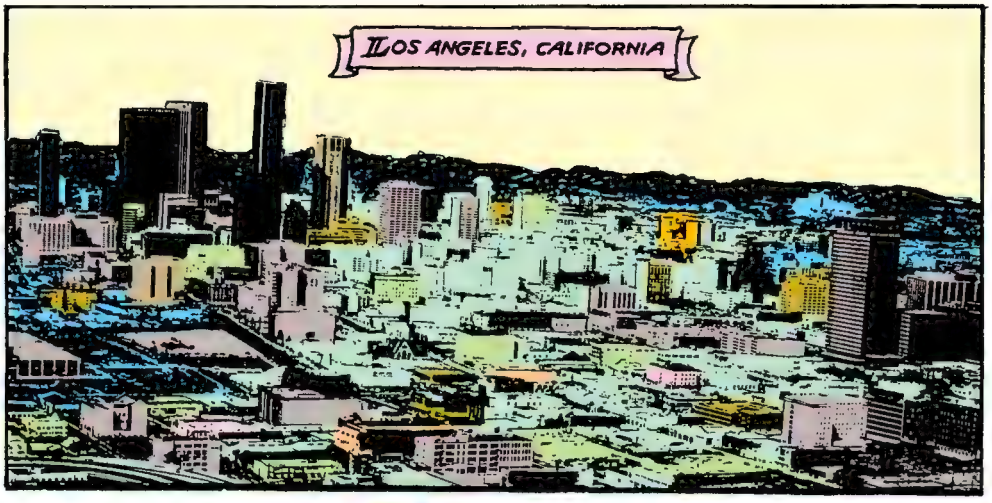
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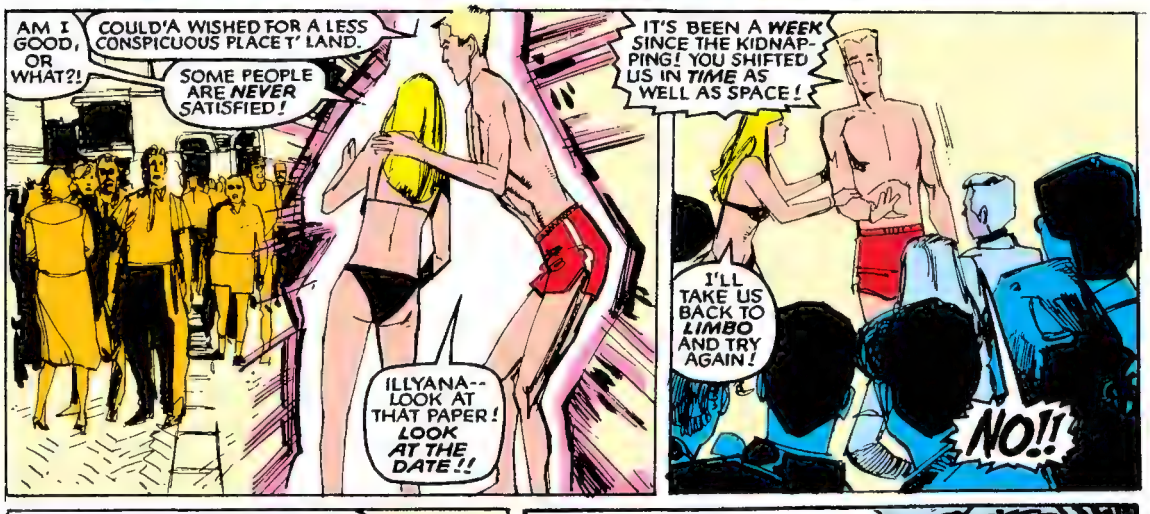
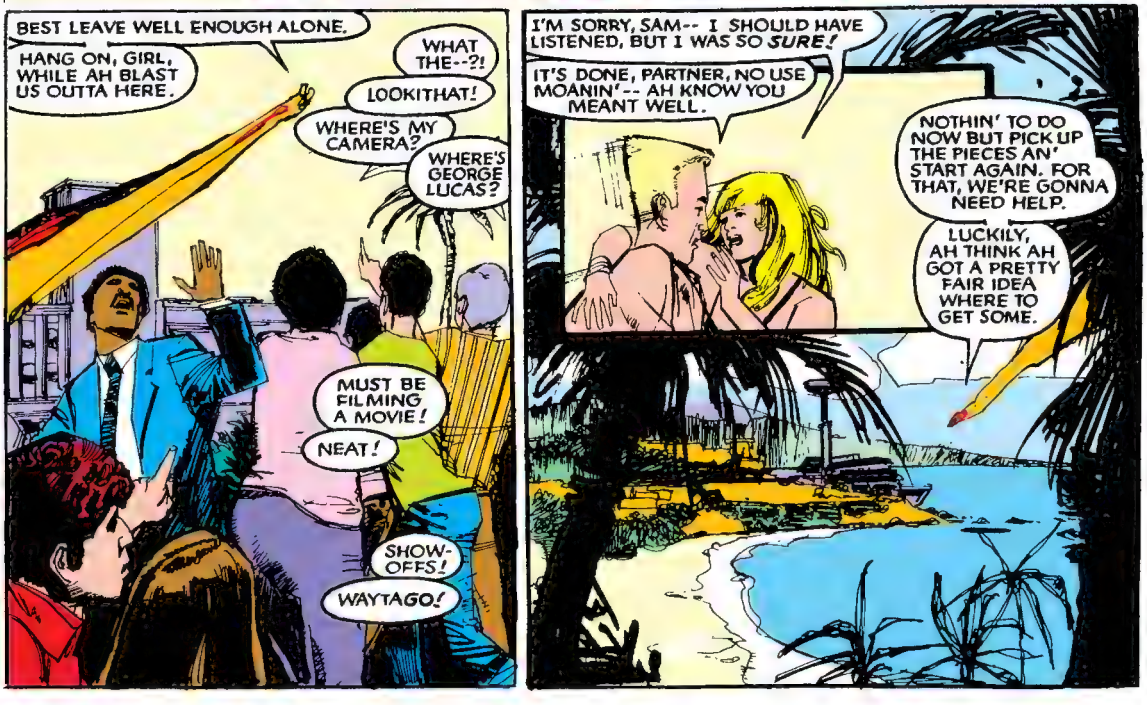
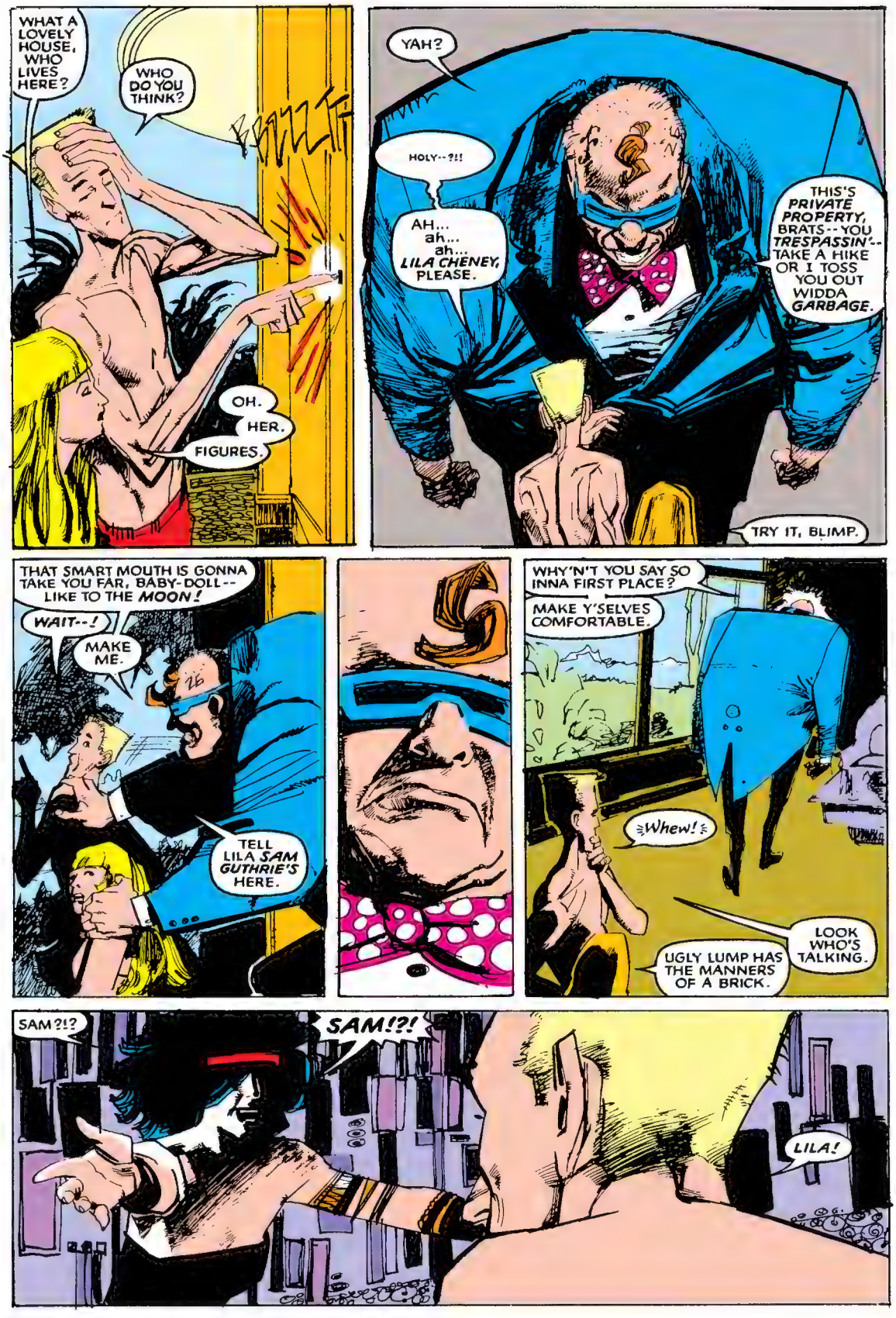
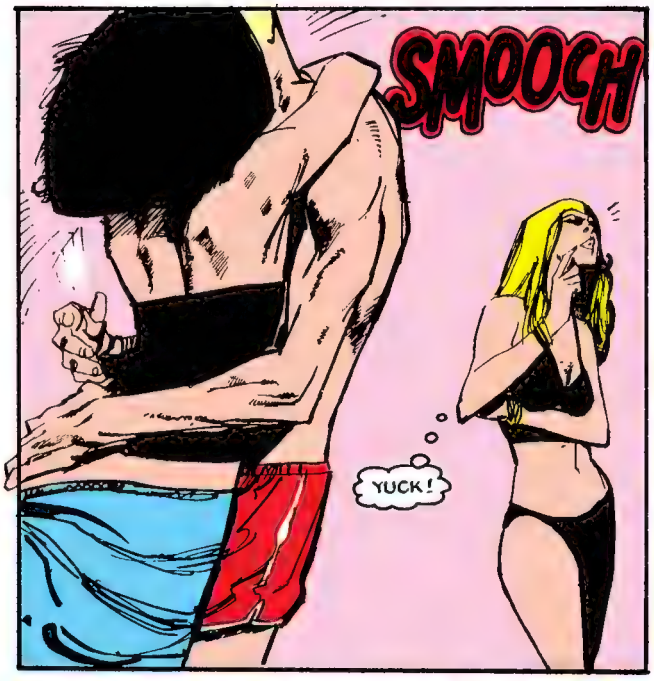

AM I GOOD, OR WHAT?!
COULD'A WISHED FOR A LESS CONSPICUOUS PLACE T' LAND.
SOME PEOPLE ARE NEVER SATISFIED!
ILLYANA-- LOOK AT THAT PAPER! LOOK AT THE DATE!!
IT'S BEEN A WEEK SINCE THE KIDNAPPING! YOU SHIFTED US IN TIME AS WELL AS SPACE!
I'LL TAKE US BACK TO LIMBO AND TRY AGAIN!
NO!!

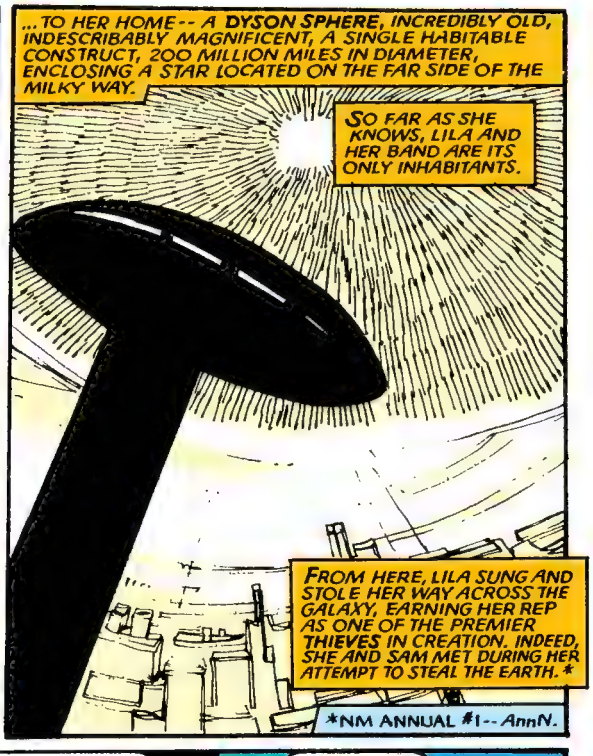

BEST LEAVE WELL ENOUGH ALONE.
HANG ON, GIRL, WHILE AH BLAST US OUTTA HERE.
WHAT THE--?!
LOOKITHAT!
WHERE'S MY CAMERA?
WHERE'S GEORGE LUCAS?
MUST BE FILMING A MOVIE!
NEAT!
SHOW-OFFS!
WAYTAGO!
I'M SORRY, SAM-- I SHOULD HAVE LISTENED, BUT I WAS SO SURE!
IT'S DONE, PARTNER, NO USE MOANIN'-- AH KNOW YOU MEANT WELL.
NOTHIN' TO DO NOW BUT PICK UP THE PIECES AN' START AGAIN. FOR THAT, WE'RE GONNA NEED HELP.
LUCKILY, AH THINK AH GOT A PRETTY FAIR IDEA WHERE TO GET SOME.

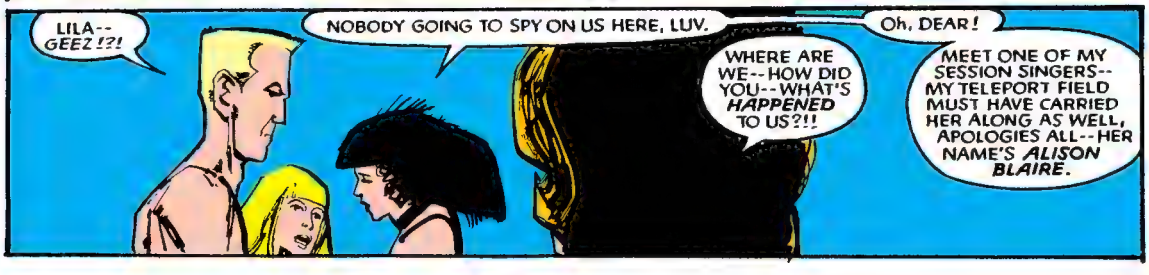

WHAT A LOVELY HOUSE, WHO LIVES HERE?
WHO DO YOU THINK?
BZZZZT!
OH.
HER.
FIGURES.
YAH?
HOLY--?!!
AH... ah... ah... LILA CHENEY, PLEASE.
THIS'S PRIVATE PROPERTY, BRATS--YOU TRESPASSIN'--TAKE A HIKE OR I TOSS YOU OUT WIDDA GARBAGE.
TRY IT, BLIMP.
THAT SMART MOUTH IS GONNA TAKE YOU FAR, BABY-DOLL--LIKE TO THE MOON!
WAIT--!
MAKE ME.
TELL LILA SAM GUTHRIE'S HERE.
WHY'N'T YOU SAY SO INNA FIRST PLACE?
MAKE Y'SELVES COMFORTABLE.
≷Whew!≶
UGLY LUMP HAS THE MANNERS OF A BRICK.
LOOK WHO'S TALKING.
SAM?!?
SAM!?!
LILA!

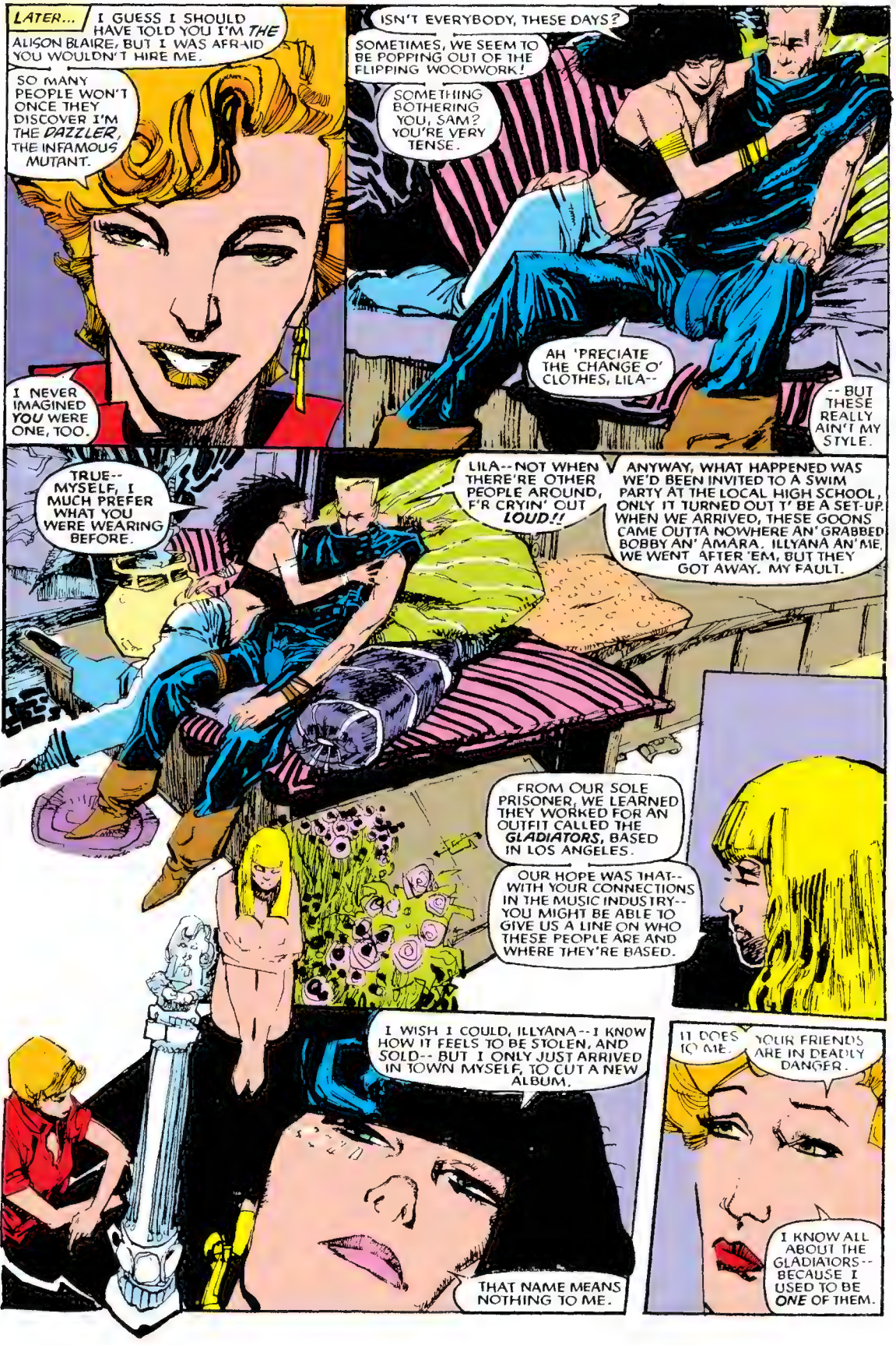

SMOOCH
YUCK!

AH WISH THIS WAS A SOCIAL VISIT...
NOT HALF AS MUCH AS I DO, LOVER.
WE NEED TO TALK, SOMEWHERE PRIVATE.
SNAP!
NO PROBLEM.

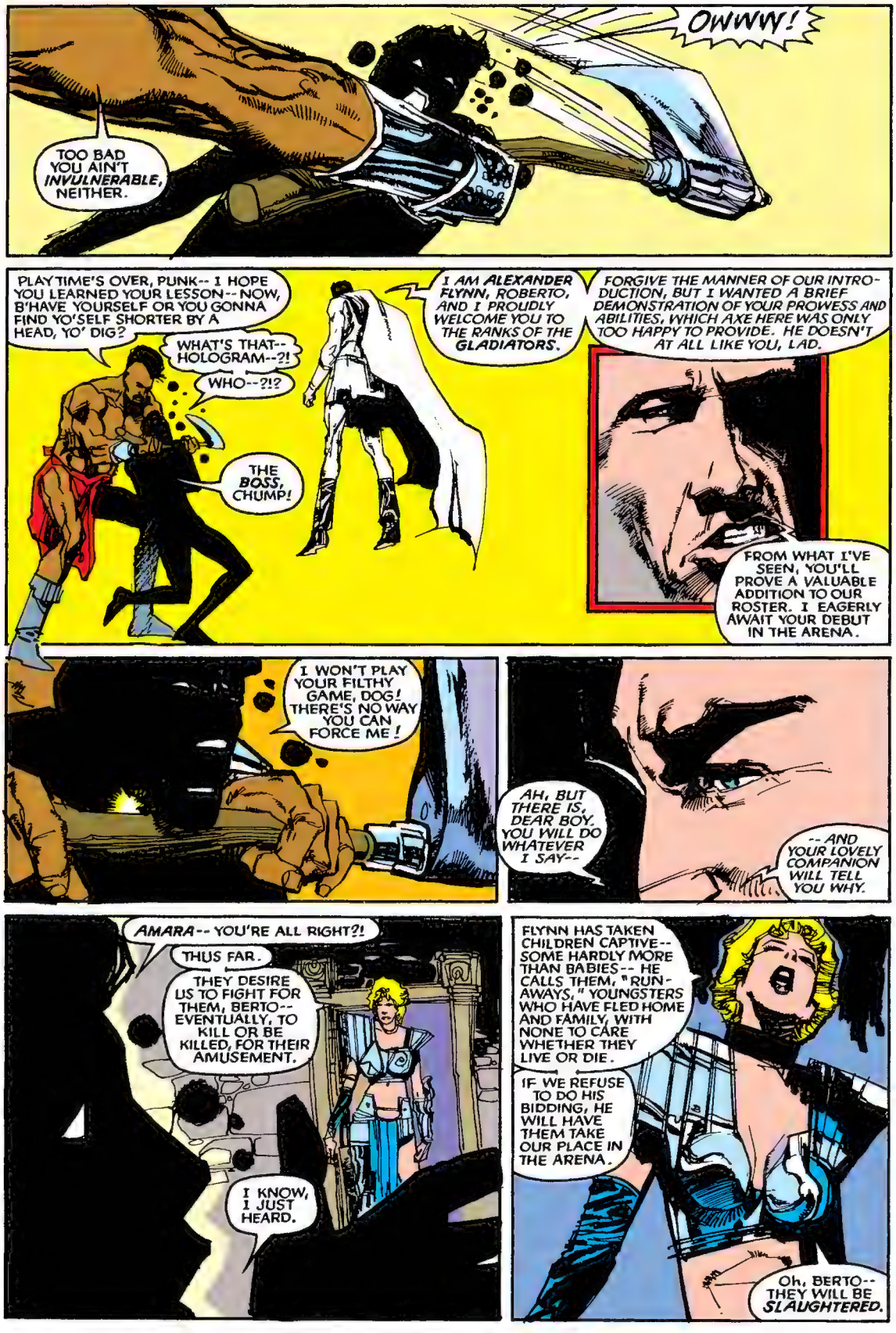
WITH THAT--
--UNAWARE OF THE YOUNG WOMAN CLIMBING THE STAIRS FROM THE RECORDING STUDIO BEHIND HER--
--LILA TELEPORTS EVERYONE IN THE ROOM FROM HER MALIBU BEACH-HOUSE...

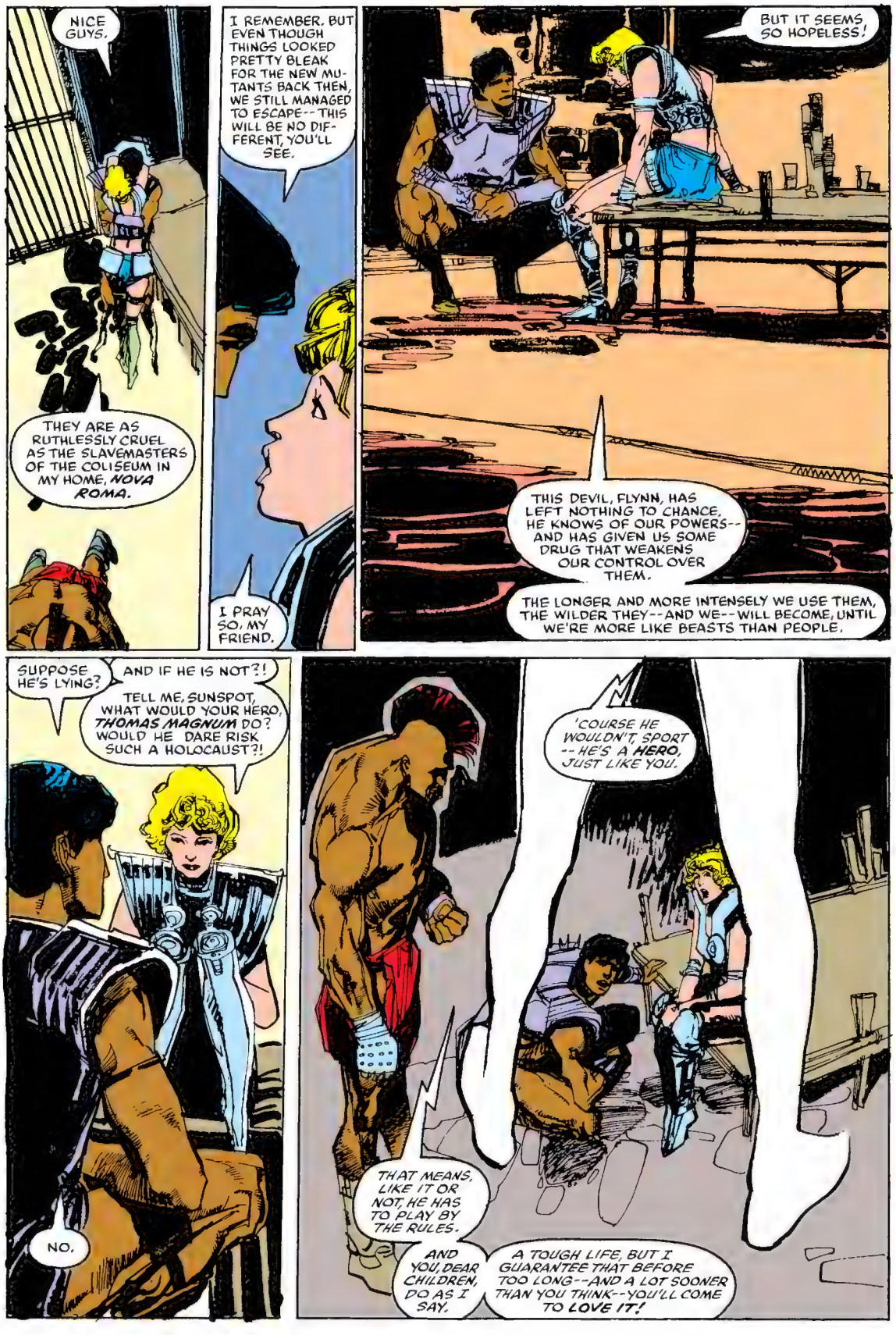

...TO HER HOME-- A DYSON SPHERE, INCREDIBLY OLD, INDESCRIBABLY MAGNIFICENT, A SINGLE HABITABLE CONSTRUCT, 200 MILLION MILES IN DIAMETER, ENCLOSING A STAR LOCATED ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE MILKY WAY.
SO FAR AS SHE KNOWS, LILA AND HER BAND ARE ITS ONLY INHABITANTS.
FROM HERE, LILA SUNG AND STOLE HER WAY ACROSS THE GALAXY, EARNING HER REP AS ONE OF THE PREMIER THIEVES IN CREATION. INDEED, SHE AND SAM MET DURING HER ATTEMPT TO STEAL THE EARTH.*
*NM ANNUAL #1-- AnnN.

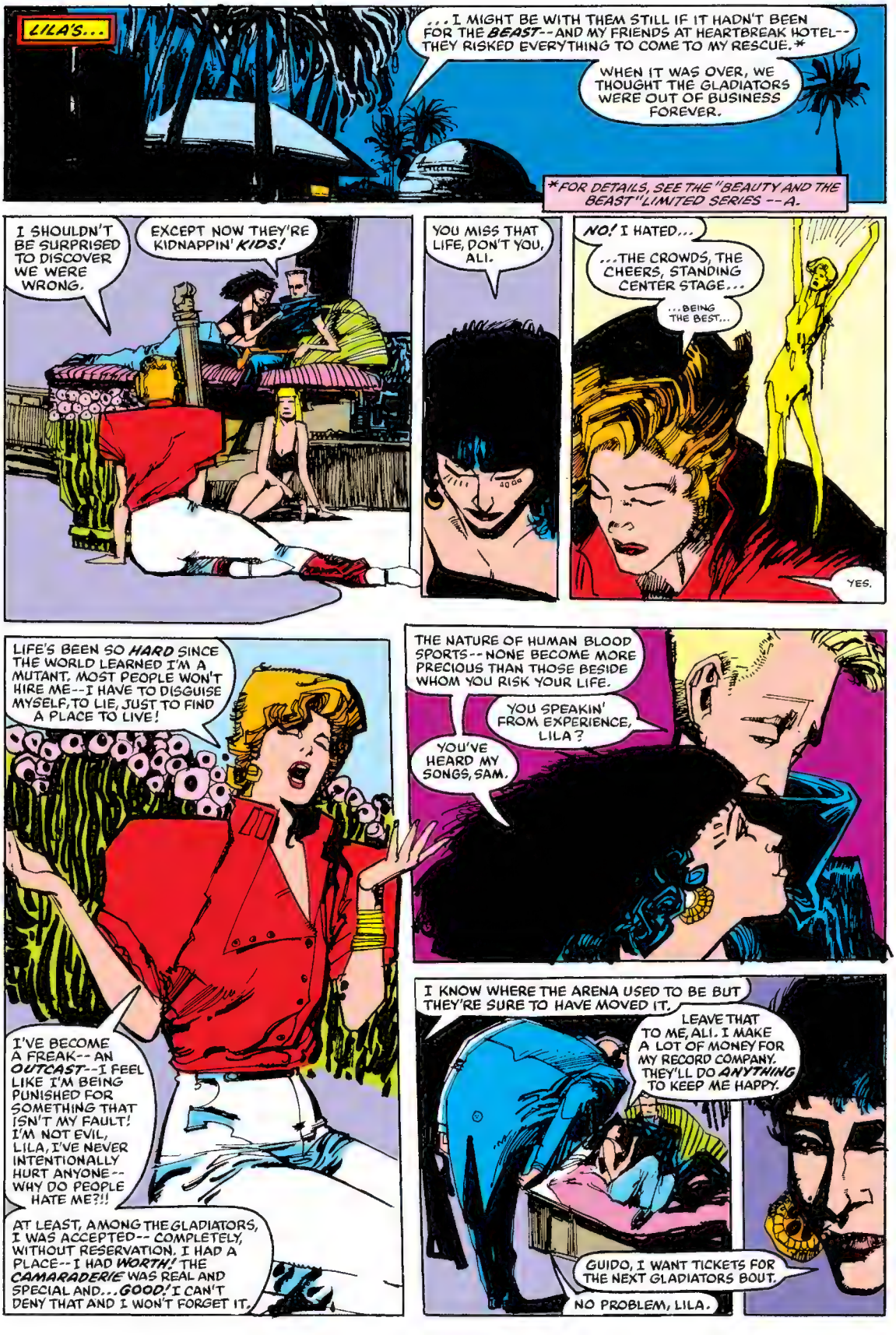

LILA-- GEEZ!?!
NOBODY GOING TO SPY ON US HERE, LUV.
WHERE ARE WE-- HOW DID YOU-- WHAT'S HAPPENED TO US?!!
Oh, DEAR!
MEET ONE OF MY SESSION SINGERS-- MY TELEPORT FIELD MUST HAVE CARRIED HER ALONG AS WELL, APOLOGIES ALL-- HER NAME'S ALISON BLAIRE.


LATER...
I GUESS I SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU I'M THE ALISON BLAIRE, BUT I WAS AFRAID YOU WOULDN'T HIRE ME.
SO MANY PEOPLE WON'T ONCE THEY DISCOVER I'M THE DAZZLER, THE INFAMOUS MUTANT.
I NEVER IMAGINED YOU WERE ONE, TOO.
ISN'T EVERYBODY, THESE DAYS?
SOMETIMES, WE SEEM TO BE POPPING OUT OF THE FLIPPING WOODWORK!
SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU, SAM? YOU'RE VERY TENSE.
AH 'PRECIATE THE CHANGE O' CLOTHES, LILA--
-- BUT THESE REALLY AIN'T MY STYLE.
TRUE-- MYSELF, I MUCH PREFER WHAT YOU WERE WEARING BEFORE.
LILA-- NOT WHEN THERE'RE OTHER PEOPLE AROUND, F'R CRYIN' OUT LOUD!!
ANYWAY, WHAT HAPPENED WAS WE'D BEEN INVITED TO A SWIM PARTY AT THE LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL, ONLY IT TURNED OUT T' BE A SET-UP. WHEN WE ARRIVED, THESE GOONS CAME OUTTA NOWHERE AN' GRABBED BOBBY AN' AMARA. ILLYANA AN' ME, WE WENT AFTER 'EM, BUT THEY GOT AWAY. MY FAULT.
FROM OUR SOLE PRISONER, WE LEARNED THEY WORKED FOR AN OUTFIT CALLED THE GLADIATORS, BASED IN LOS ANGELES.
OUR HOPE WAS THAT-- WITH YOUR CONNECTIONS IN THE MUSIC INDUSTRY-- YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO GIVE US A LINE ON WHO THESE PEOPLE ARE AND WHERE THEY'RE BASED.
I WISH I COULD, ILLYANA-- I KNOW HOW IT FEELS TO BE STOLEN, AND SOLD-- BUT I ONLY JUST ARRIVED IN TOWN MYSELF, TO CUT A NEW ALBUM.
THAT NAME MEANS NOTHING TO ME.
IT DOES TO ME.
YOUR FRIENDS ARE IN DEADLY DANGER.
I KNOW ALL ABOUT THE GLADIATORS-- BECAUSE I USED TO BE ONE OF THEM.

SOMEWHERE ELSE--
I WANT AMARA!
BRING HER TO ME--ALIVE AND UNHARMED--NOW--OR BY ALL I HOLD HOLY...
...I'LL SMASH YOUR PRECIOUS PRISON TO RUBBLE!
I WONDER IF THEY KNOW I'M BLUFFING? MY SUPER-STRENGTH DERIVES FROM SUN-LIGHT--CUT OFF FROM IT, INSIDE THIS BUILDING, IT WON'T TAKE MUCH TIME OR EFFORT TO REDUCE IT TO ZERO.
WHY AM I HERE--WHEREVER THAT IS--WHAT DO THESE SWINE WANT--EH?!!
YOU SPOILIN' FOR A FIGHT, FOOL--
KRASH!
--TRY ME!
AXE!
SMART BOY, YOU REMEMBER!*
*THEY MET IN NM #7--A.
HOW COULD ANYONE FORGET...
...SO UGLY AND STUPID A LUMMOX?
YOU AIN'T CHANGED NONE, YOU STILL FIGHTIN' WITH YOUR MOUTH.
AIN'T YOU LEARNED YOU CAN MAYBE SMASH MOUNTAINS--BUT ONLY IF THEY STAND STILL AN' LET YOU?!
HE ROLLED WITH MY PUNCH! I HARDLY TOUCHED HIM!


OWWW!
TOO BAD YOU AIN'T INVULNERABLE, NEITHER.
PLAYTIME'S OVER, PUNK-- I HOPE YOU LEARNED YOUR LESSON-- NOW, B'HAVE YOURSELF OR YOU GONNA FIND YO'SELF SHORTER BY A HEAD, YO' DIG?
WHAT'S THAT-- HOLOGRAM--?!
WHO--?!?
THE BOSS, CHUMP!
I AM ALEXANDER FLYNN, ROBERTO, AND I PROUDLY WELCOME YOU TO THE RANKS OF THE GLADIATORS.
FORGIVE THE MANNER OF OUR INTRODUCTION, BUT I WANTED A BRIEF DEMONSTRATION OF YOUR PROWESS AND ABILITIES, WHICH AXE HERE WAS ONLY TOO HAPPY TO PROVIDE. HE DOESN'T AT ALL LIKE YOU, LAD.
FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN, YOU'LL PROVE A VALUABLE ADDITION TO OUR ROSTER. I EAGERLY AWAIT YOUR DEBUT IN THE ARENA.
I WON'T PLAY YOUR FILTHY GAME, DOG! THERE'S NO WAY YOU CAN FORCE ME!
AH, BUT THERE IS, DEAR BOY. YOU WILL DO WHATEVER I SAY--
-- AND YOUR LOVELY COMPANION WILL TELL YOU WHY.
AMARA-- YOU'RE ALL RIGHT?!
THUS FAR.
THEY DESIRE US TO FIGHT FOR THEM, BERTO-- EVENTUALLY, TO KILL OR BE KILLED, FOR THEIR AMUSEMENT.
I KNOW, I JUST HEARD.
FLYNN HAS TAKEN CHILDREN CAPTIVE-- SOME HARDLY MORE THAN BABIES-- HE CALLS THEM, "RUNAWAYS," YOUNGSTERS WHO HAVE FLED HOME AND FAMILY, WITH NONE TO CARE WHETHER THEY LIVE OR DIE.
IF WE REFUSE TO DO HIS BIDDING, HE WILL HAVE THEM TAKE OUR PLACE IN THE ARENA.
Oh, BERTO-- THEY WILL BE SLAUGHTERED.


NICE GUYS.
THEY ARE AS RUTHLESSLY CRUEL AS THE SLAVEMASTERS OF THE COLISEUM IN MY HOME, NOVA ROMA.
I REMEMBER, BUT EVEN THOUGH THINGS LOOKED PRETTY BLEAK FOR THE NEW MUTANTS BACK THEN, WE STILL MANAGED TO ESCAPE--THIS WILL BE NO DIFFERENT, YOU'LL SEE.
I PRAY SO, MY FRIEND.
BUT IT SEEMS SO HOPELESS!
THIS DEVIL, FLYNN, HAS LEFT NOTHING TO CHANCE. HE KNOWS OF OUR POWERS--AND HAS GIVEN US SOME DRUG THAT WEAKENS OUR CONTROL OVER THEM.
THE LONGER AND MORE INTENSELY WE USE THEM, THE WILDER THEY--AND WE--WILL BECOME, UNTIL WE'RE MORE LIKE BEASTS THAN PEOPLE.
SUPPOSE HE'S LYING?
AND IF HE IS NOT?!
TELL ME, SUNSPOT, WHAT WOULD YOUR HERO, THOMAS MAGNUM DO? WOULD HE DARE RISK SUCH A HOLOCAUST?!
NO.
'COURSE HE WOULDN'T, SPORT--HE'S A HERO, JUST LIKE YOU.
THAT MEANS, LIKE IT OR NOT, HE HAS TO PLAY BY THE RULES.
AND YOU, DEAR CHILDREN, DO AS I SAY.
A TOUGH LIFE, BUT I GUARANTEE THAT BEFORE TOO LONG--AND A LOT SOONER THAN YOU THINK--YOU'LL COME TO LOVE IT!


LILA'S...
...I MIGHT BE WITH THEM STILL IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR THE BEAST--AND MY FRIENDS AT HEARTBREAK HOTEL--THEY RISKED EVERYTHING TO COME TO MY RESCUE.*
WHEN IT WAS OVER, WE THOUGHT THE GLADIATORS WERE OUT OF BUSINESS FOREVER.
*FOR DETAILS, SEE THE "BEAUTY AND THE BEAST" LIMITED SERIES --A.
I SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED TO DISCOVER WE WERE WRONG.
EXCEPT NOW THEY'RE KIDNAPPIN' KIDS!
YOU MISS THAT LIFE, DON'T YOU, ALI.
NO! I HATED...
...THE CROWDS, THE CHEERS, STANDING CENTER STAGE...
...BEING THE BEST...
YES.
LIFE'S BEEN SO HARD SINCE THE WORLD LEARNED I'M A MUTANT. MOST PEOPLE WON'T HIRE ME--I HAVE TO DISGUISE MYSELF, TO LIE, JUST TO FIND A PLACE TO LIVE!
I'VE BECOME A FREAK--AN OUTCAST--I FEEL LIKE I'M BEING PUNISHED FOR SOMETHING THAT ISN'T MY FAULT! I'M NOT EVIL, LILA, I'VE NEVER INTENTIONALLY HURT ANYONE--WHY DO PEOPLE HATE ME?!!
AT LEAST, AMONG THE GLADIATORS, I WAS ACCEPTED--COMPLETELY, WITHOUT RESERVATION. I HAD A PLACE--I HAD WORTH! THE CAMARADERIE WAS REAL AND SPECIAL AND...GOOD! I CAN'T DENY THAT AND I WON'T FORGET IT.
THE NATURE OF HUMAN BLOOD SPORTS--NONE BECOME MORE PRECIOUS THAN THOSE BESIDE WHOM YOU RISK YOUR LIFE.
YOU SPEAKIN' FROM EXPERIENCE, LILA?
YOU'VE HEARD MY SONGS, SAM.
I KNOW WHERE THE ARENA USED TO BE BUT THEY'RE SURE TO HAVE MOVED IT.
LEAVE THAT TO ME, ALI. I MAKE A LOT OF MONEY FOR MY RECORD COMPANY. THEY'LL DO ANYTHING TO KEEP ME HAPPY.
GUIDO, I WANT TICKETS FOR THE NEXT GLADIATORS BOUT.
NO PROBLEM, LILA.

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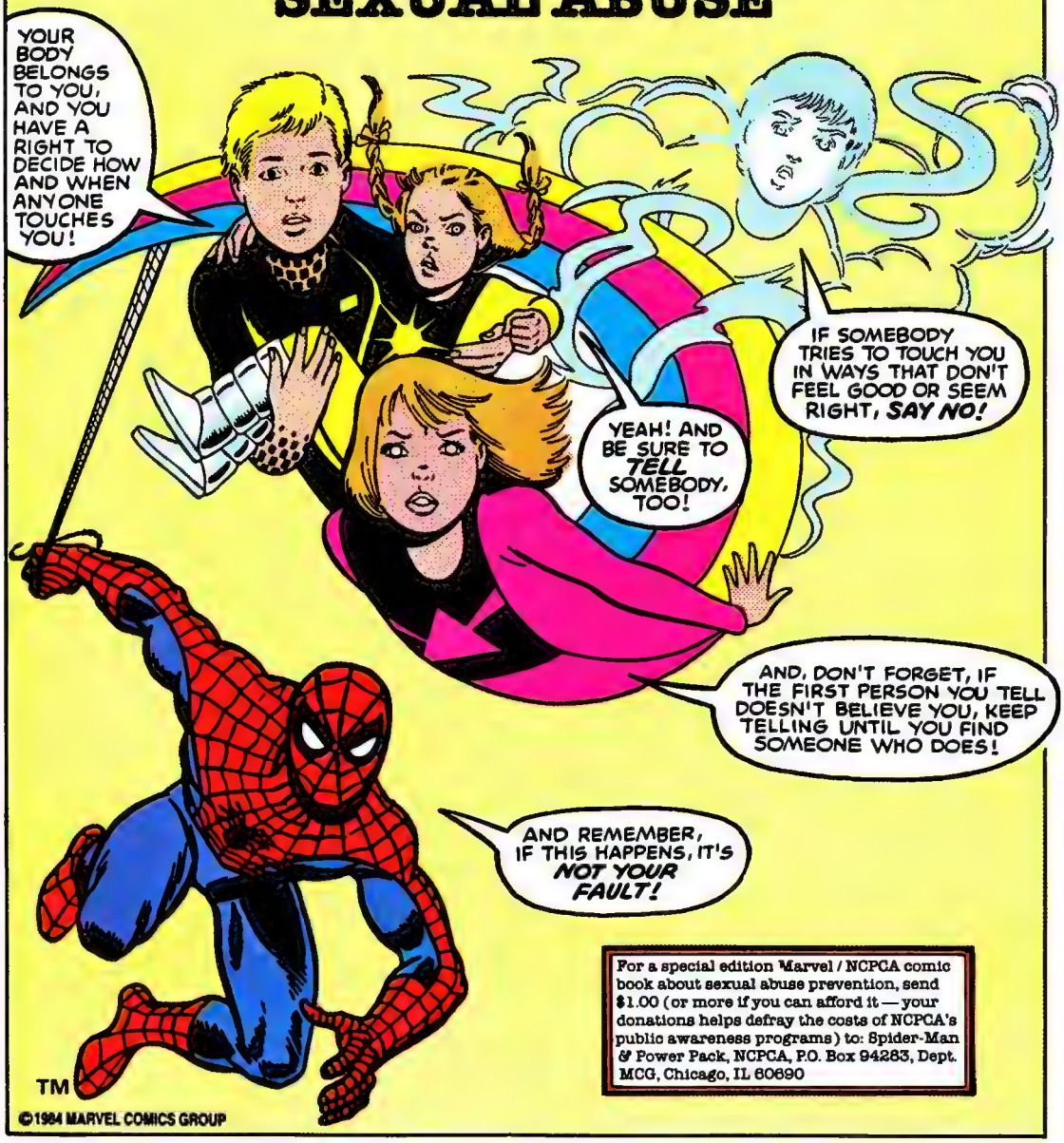
YOUR BODY BELONGS TO YOU, AND YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO DECIDE HOW AND WHEN ANYONE TOUCHES YOU!
IF SOMEBODY TRIES TO TOUCH YOU IN WAYS THAT DON'T FEEL GOOD OR SEEM RIGHT, SAY NO!
YEAH! AND BE SURE TO TELL SOMEBODY, TOO!
AND, DON'T FORGET, IF THE FIRST PERSON YOU TELL DOESN'T BELIEVE YOU, KEEP TELLING UNTIL YOU FIND SOMEONE WHO DOES!
AND REMEMBER, IF THIS HAPPENS, IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT!

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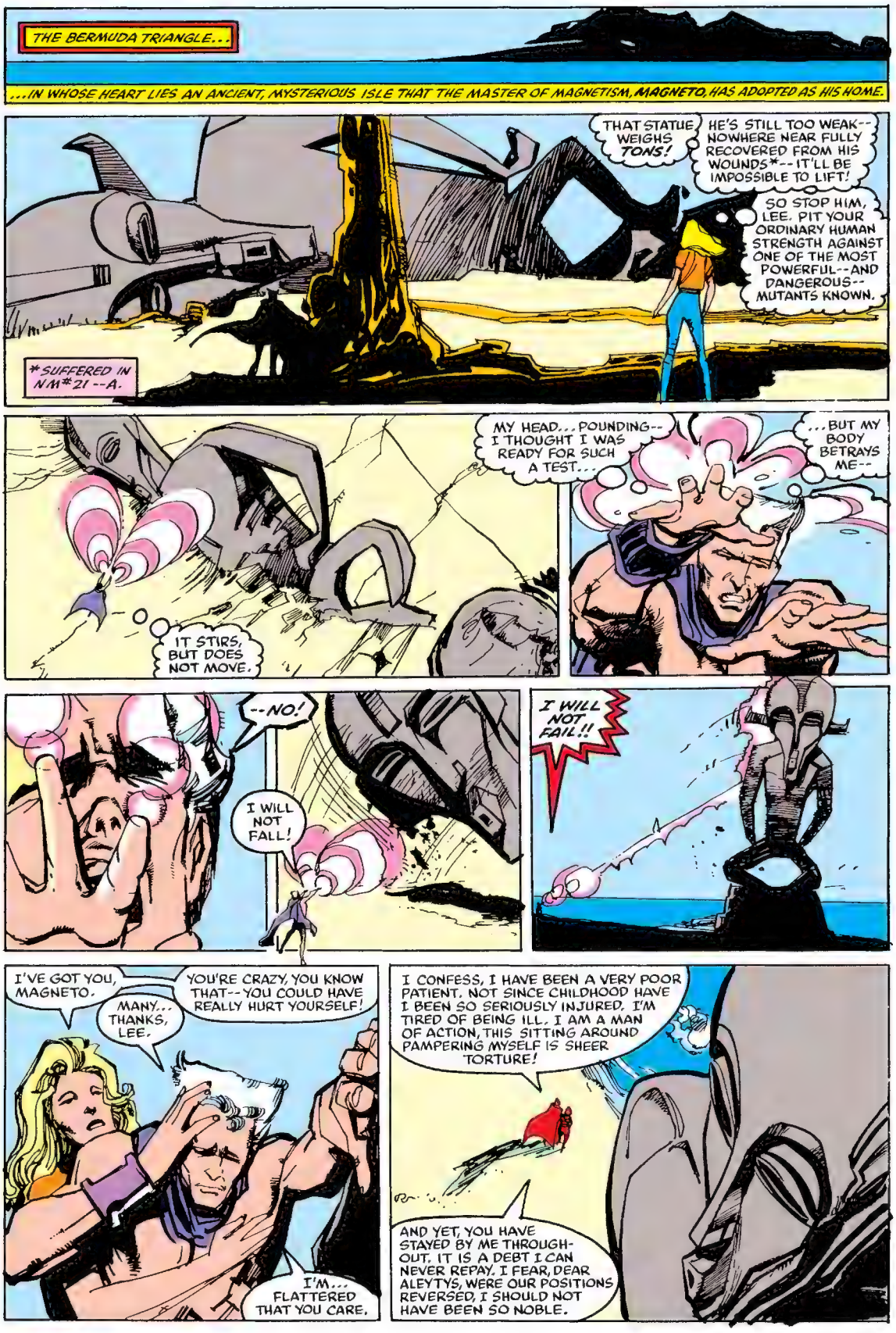
THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE...
...IN WHOSE HEART LIES AN ANCIENT, MYSTERIOUS ISLE THAT THE MASTER OF MAGNETISM, MAGNETO, HAS ADOPTED AS HIS HOME.
THAT STATUE WEIGHS TONS!
HE'S STILL TOO WEAK--NOWHERE NEAR FULLY RECOVERED FROM HIS WOUNDS*--IT'LL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO LIFT!
SO STOP HIM, LEE. PIT YOUR ORDINARY HUMAN STRENGTH AGAINST ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL--AND DANGEROUS--MUTANTS KNOWN.
*SUFFERED IN NM#21--A.
MY HEAD... POUNDING--I THOUGHT I WAS READY FOR SUCH A TEST...
...BUT MY BODY BETRAYS ME--
IT STIRS, BUT DOES NOT MOVE.
--NO!
I WILL NOT FALL!
I WILL NOT FAIL!!
I'VE GOT YOU, MAGNETO.
YOU'RE CRAZY, YOU KNOW THAT--YOU COULD HAVE REALLY HURT YOURSELF!
MANY... THANKS, LEE.
I'M... FLATTERED THAT YOU CARE.
I CONFESS, I HAVE BEEN A VERY POOR PATIENT. NOT SINCE CHILDHOOD HAVE I BEEN SO SERIOUSLY INJURED. I'M TIRED OF BEING ILL. I AM A MAN OF ACTION, THIS SITTING AROUND PAMPERING MYSELF IS SHEER TORTURE!
AND YET, YOU HAVE STAYED BY ME THROUGHOUT. IT IS A DEBT I CAN NEVER REPAY. I FEAR, DEAR ALEYTYS, WERE OUR POSITIONS REVERSED, I SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN SO NOBLE.

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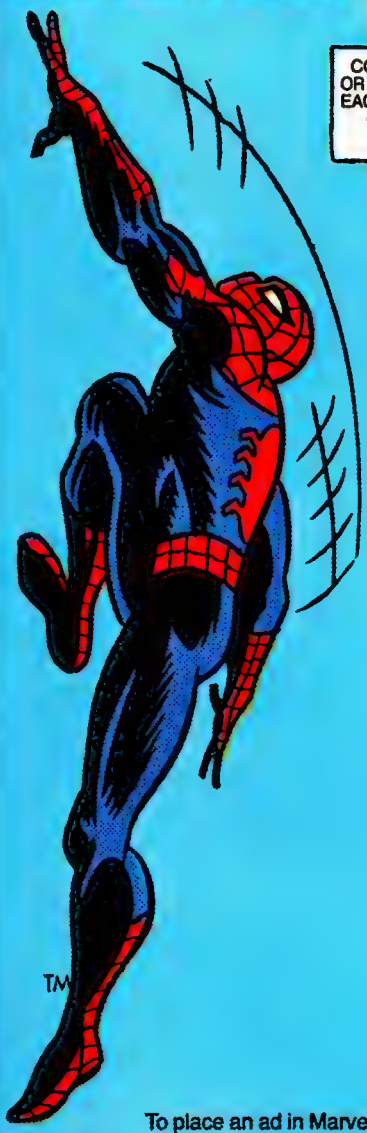

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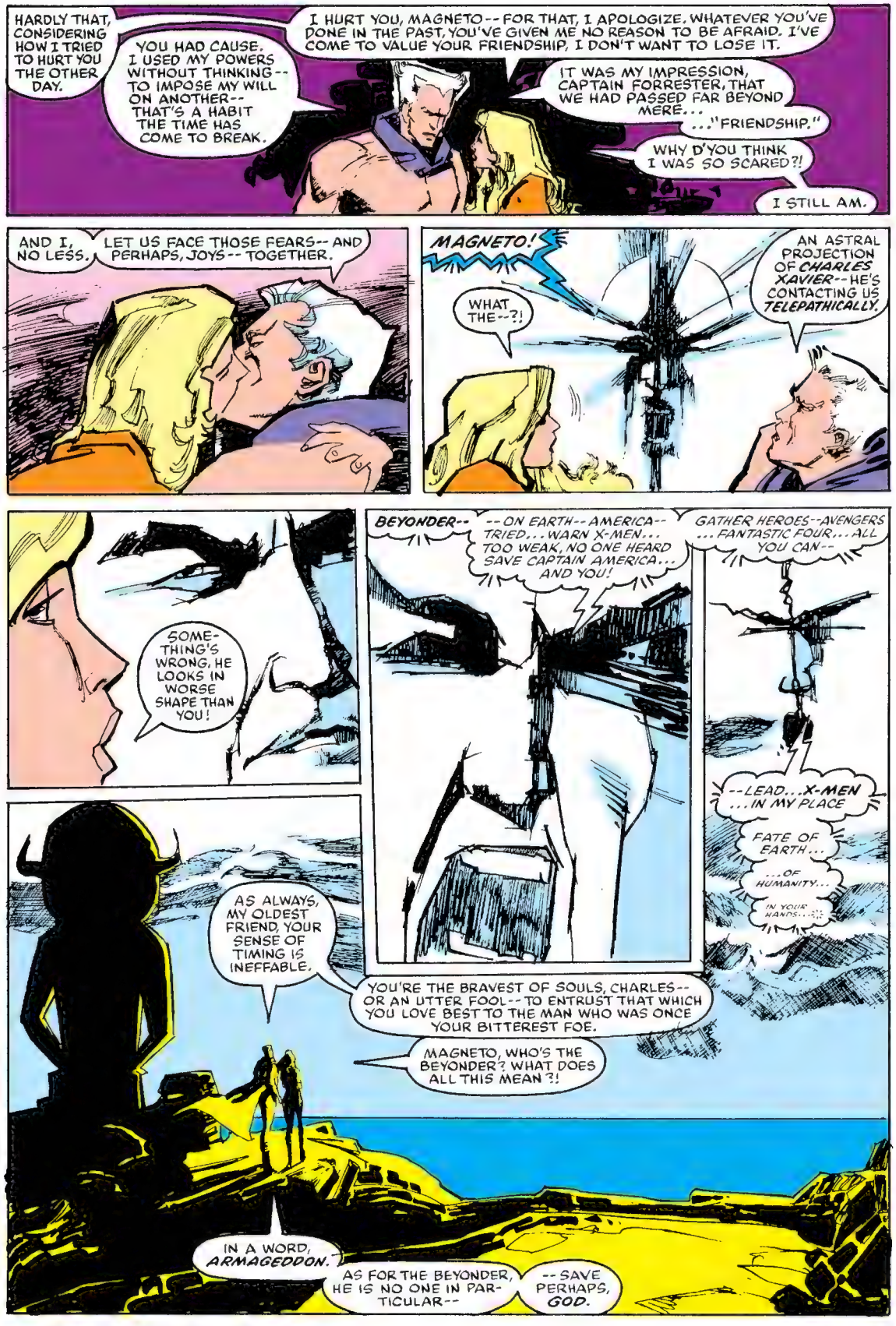
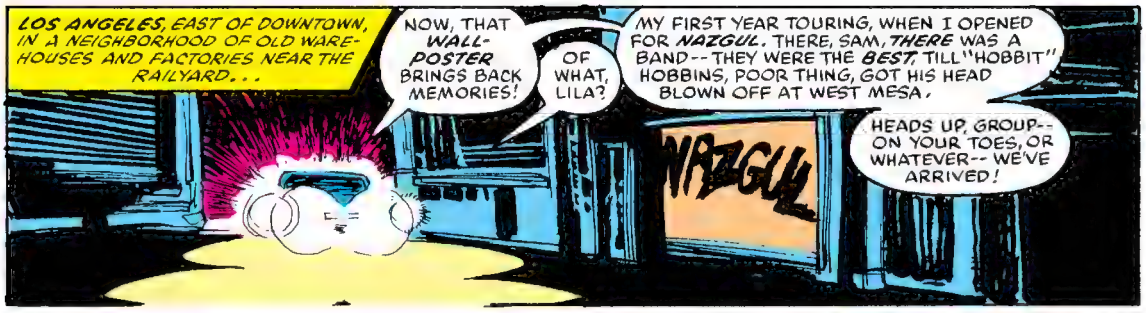
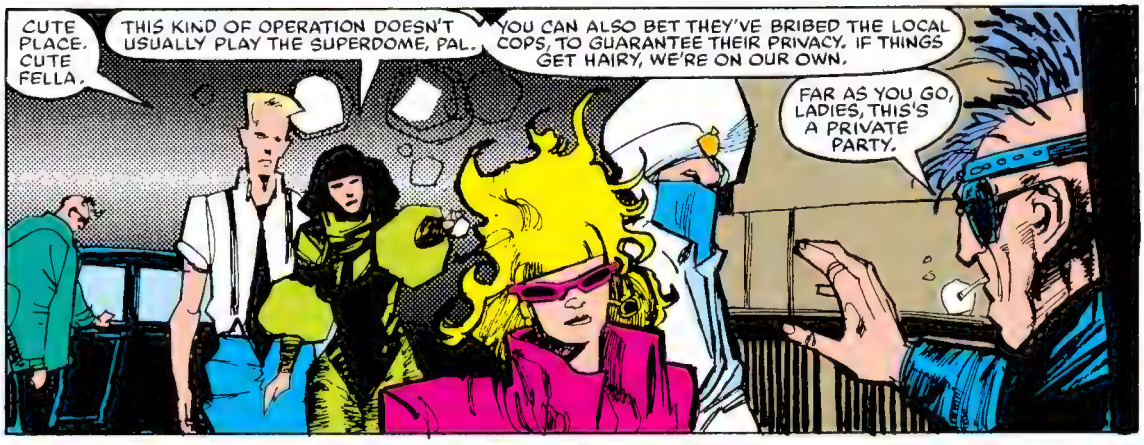

HARDLY THAT, CONSIDERING HOW I TRIED TO HURT YOU THE OTHER DAY.
YOU HAD CAUSE. I USED MY POWERS WITHOUT THINKING -- TO IMPOSE MY WILL ON ANOTHER -- THAT'S A HABIT THE TIME HAS COME TO BREAK.
I HURT YOU, MAGNETO -- FOR THAT, I APOLOGIZE. WHATEVER YOU'VE DONE IN THE PAST, YOU'VE GIVEN ME NO REASON TO BE AFRAID. I'VE COME TO VALUE YOUR FRIENDSHIP, I DON'T WANT TO LOSE IT.
IT WAS MY IMPRESSION, CAPTAIN FORRESTER, THAT WE HAD PASSED FAR BEYOND MERE...
..."FRIENDSHIP."
WHY D'YOU THINK I WAS SO SCARED?!
I STILL AM.
AND I, NO LESS.
LET US FACE THOSE FEARS -- AND PERHAPS, JOYS -- TOGETHER.
MAGNETO!
WHAT THE--?!
AN ASTRAL PROJECTION OF CHARLES XAVIER -- HE'S CONTACTING US TELEPATHICALLY.
SOMETHING'S WRONG, HE LOOKS IN WORSE SHAPE THAN YOU!
BEYONDER--
--ON EARTH -- AMERICA -- TRIED... WARN X-MEN... TOO WEAK, NO ONE HEARD SAVE CAPTAIN AMERICA... AND YOU!
GATHER HEROES -- AVENGERS ... FANTASTIC FOUR... ALL YOU CAN --
--LEAD... X-MEN ...IN MY PLACE
FATE OF EARTH...
...OF HUMANITY...
IN YOUR HANDS...
AS ALWAYS, MY OLDEST FRIEND, YOUR SENSE OF TIMING IS INEFFABLE.
YOU'RE THE BRAVEST OF SOULS, CHARLES -- OR AN UTTER FOOL -- TO ENTRUST THAT WHICH YOU LOVE BEST TO THE MAN WHO WAS ONCE YOUR BITTEREST FOE.
MAGNETO, WHO'S THE BEYONDER? WHAT DOES ALL THIS MEAN?!
IN A WORD, ARMAGEDDON.
AS FOR THE BEYONDER, HE IS NO ONE IN PARTICULAR --
-- SAVE PERHAPS, GOD.

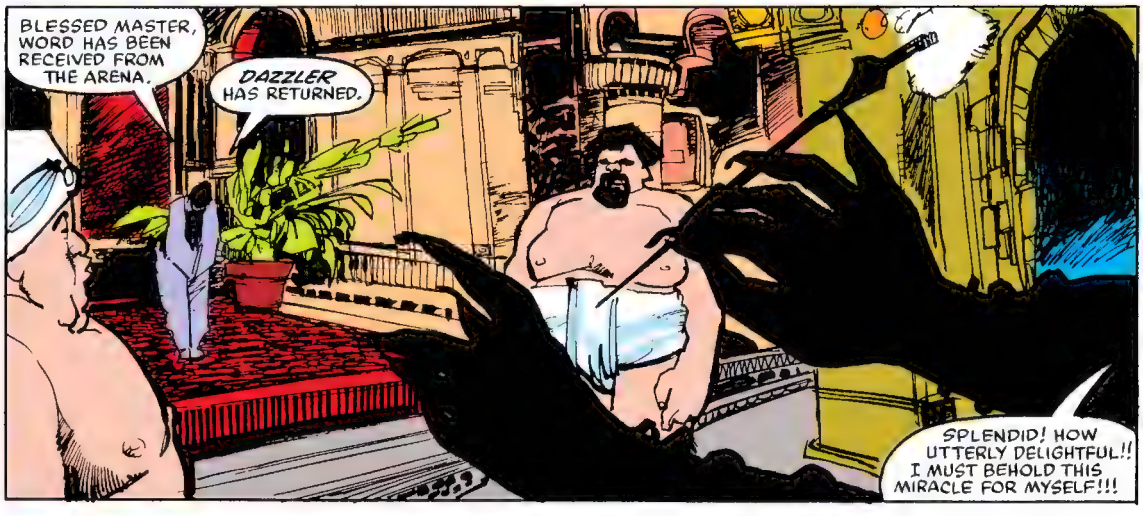

LOS ANGELES, EAST OF DOWNTOWN, IN A NEIGHBORHOOD OF OLD WAREHOUSES AND FACTORIES NEAR THE RAILYARD...
NOW, THAT WALL-POSTER BRINGS BACK MEMORIES!
OF WHAT, LILA?
MY FIRST YEAR TOURING, WHEN I OPENED FOR NAZGUL. THERE, SAM, THERE WAS A BAND--THEY WERE THE BEST, TILL "HOBBIT" HOBBINS, POOR THING, GOT HIS HEAD BLOWN OFF AT WEST MESA.
HEADS UP, GROUP--ON YOUR TOES, OR WHATEVER--WE'VE ARRIVED!
NAZGUL


CUTE PLACE. CUTE FELLA.
THIS KIND OF OPERATION DOESN'T USUALLY PLAY THE SUPERDOME, PAL.
YOU CAN ALSO BET THEY'VE BRIBED THE LOCAL COPS, TO GUARANTEE THEIR PRIVACY. IF THINGS GET HAIRY, WE'RE ON OUR OWN.
FAR AS YOU GO, LADIES, THIS'S A PRIVATE PARTY.

WE'RE INVITED.
YOU AIN'T ON MY LIST, YOU DON'T GET IN.

I SUGGEST IN OUR CASE...
...YOU MAKE AN EXCEPTION.

UH... UH... UH...
THAT CHICK--THE LOOK SHE GAVE ME, I...I...
'S'OKAY, PASS ON BY. ENJOY THE SHOW.


BLESSED MASTER, WORD HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE ARENA.
DAZZLER HAS RETURNED.
SPLENDID! HOW UTTERLY DELIGHTFUL!! I MUST BEHOLD THIS MIRACLE FOR MYSELF!!!

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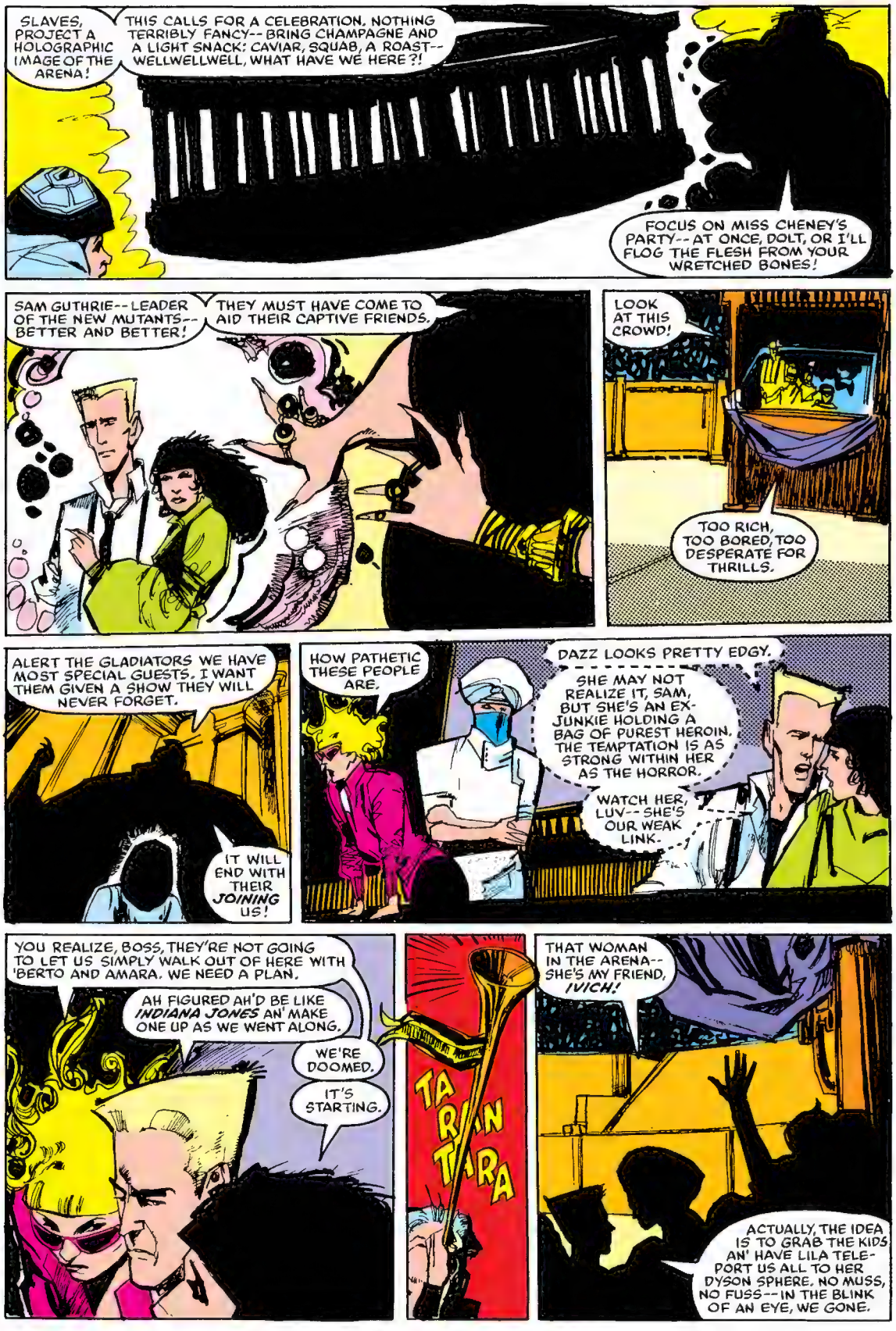
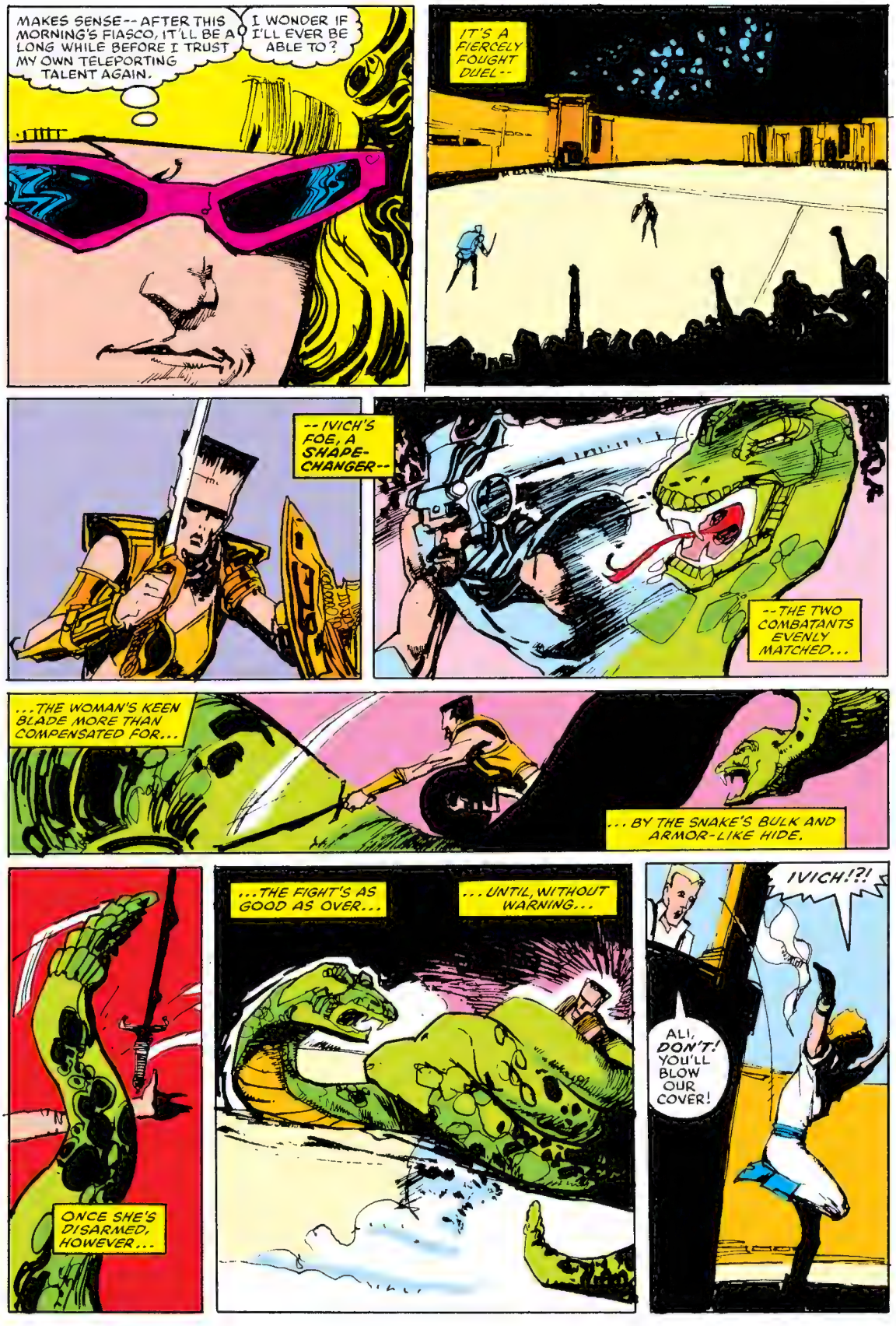
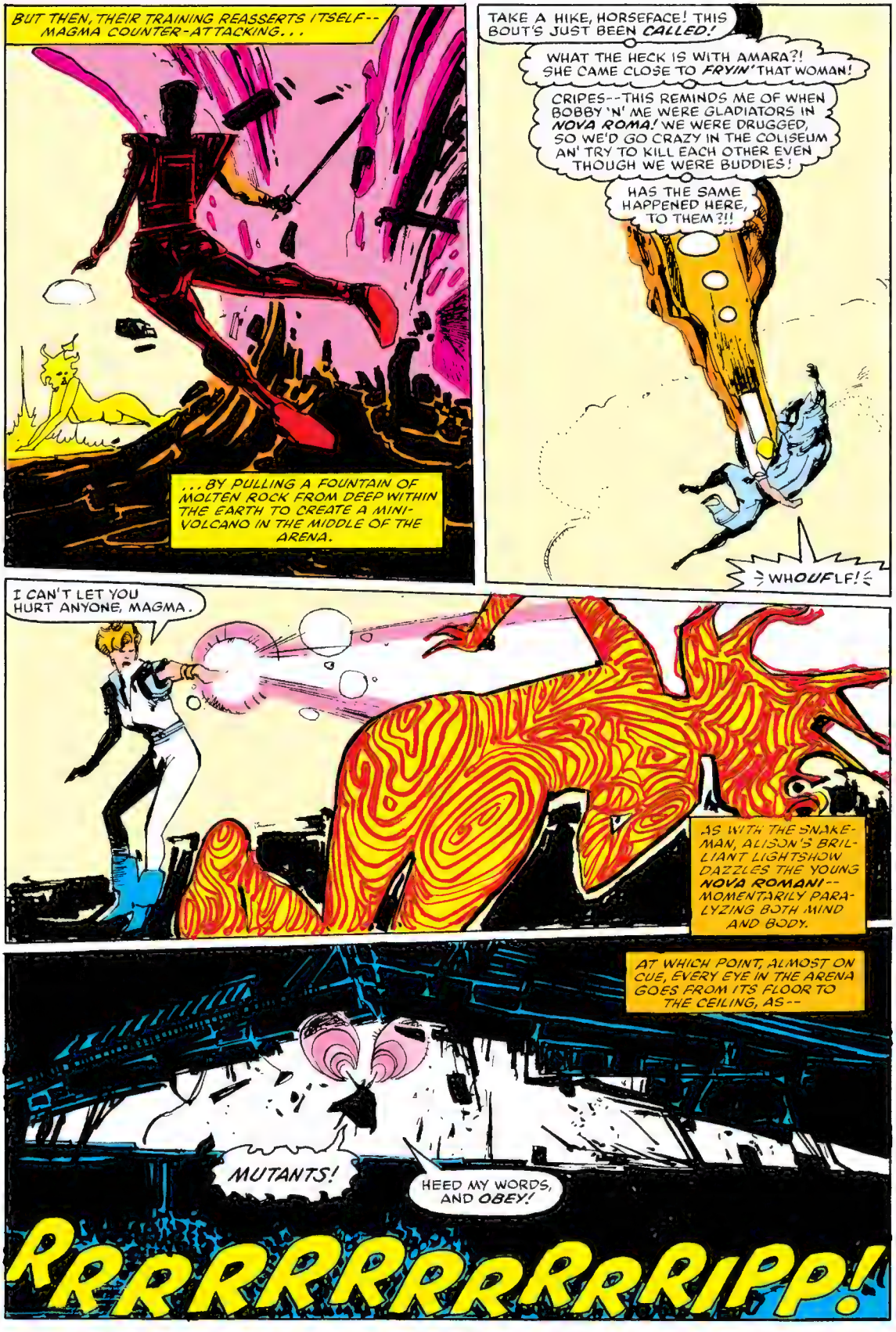
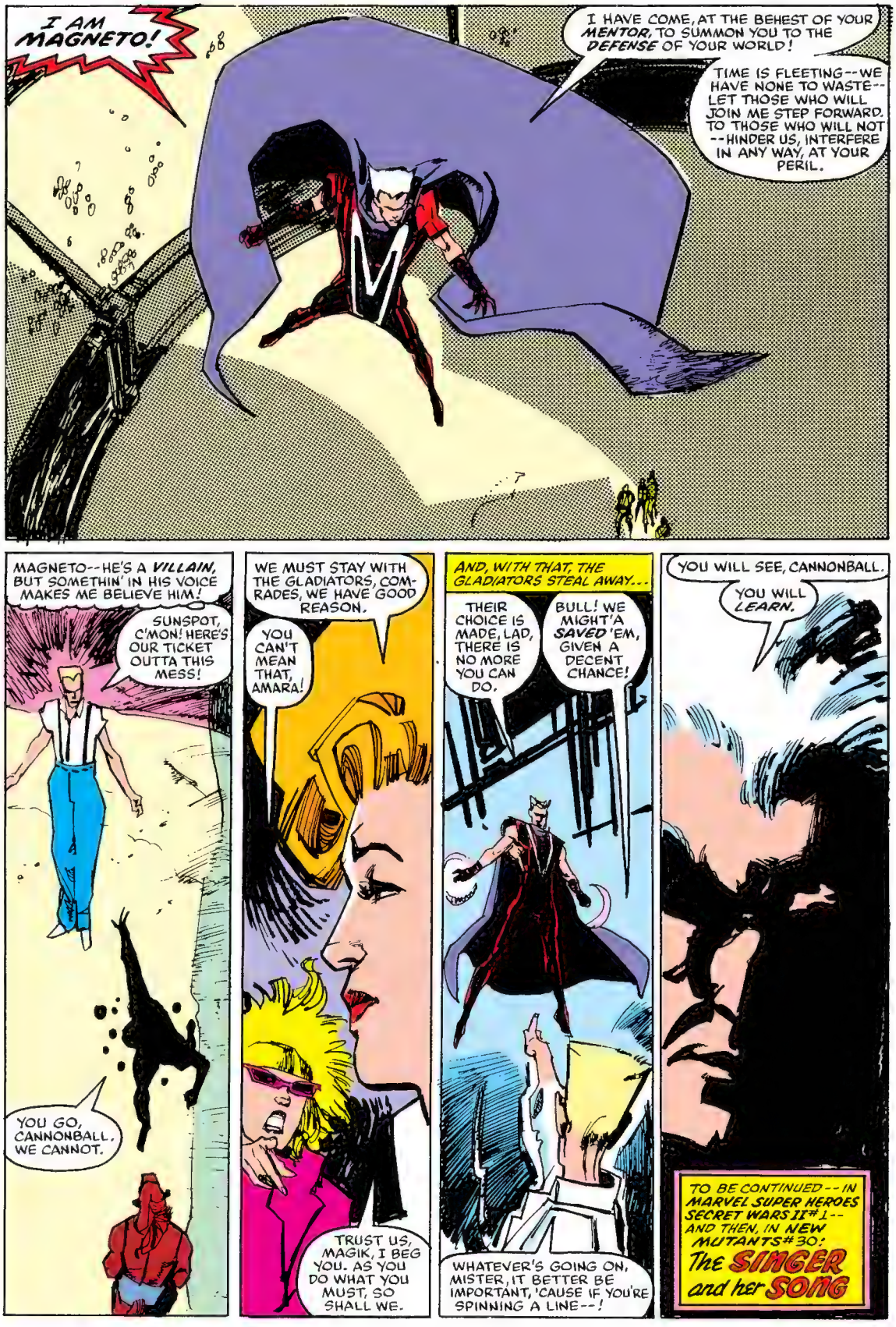

SLAVES, PROJECT A HOLOGRAPHIC IMAGE OF THE ARENA!
THIS CALLS FOR A CELEBRATION. NOTHING TERRIBLY FANCY-- BRING CHAMPAGNE AND A LIGHT SNACK: CAVIAR, SQUAB, A ROAST-- WELLWELLWELL, WHAT HAVE WE HERE?!
FOCUS ON MISS CHENEY'S PARTY-- AT ONCE, DOLT, OR I'LL FLOG THE FLESH FROM YOUR WRETCHED BONES!
SAM GUTHRIE-- LEADER OF THE NEW MUTANTS-- BETTER AND BETTER!
THEY MUST HAVE COME TO AID THEIR CAPTIVE FRIENDS.
LOOK AT THIS CROWD!
TOO RICH, TOO BORED, TOO DESPERATE FOR THRILLS.
ALERT THE GLADIATORS WE HAVE MOST SPECIAL GUESTS. I WANT THEM GIVEN A SHOW THEY WILL NEVER FORGET.
IT WILL END WITH THEIR JOINING US!
HOW PATHETIC THESE PEOPLE ARE.
DAZZ LOOKS PRETTY EDGY.
SHE MAY NOT REALIZE IT, SAM, BUT SHE'S AN EX-JUNKIE HOLDING A BAG OF PUREST HEROIN. THE TEMPTATION IS AS STRONG WITHIN HER AS THE HORROR.
WATCH HER, LUV-- SHE'S OUR WEAK LINK.
YOU REALIZE, BOSS, THEY'RE NOT GOING TO LET US SIMPLY WALK OUT OF HERE WITH 'BERTO AND AMARA. WE NEED A PLAN.
AH FIGURED AH'D BE LIKE INDIANA JONES AN' MAKE ONE UP AS WE WENT ALONG.
WE'RE DOOMED.
IT'S STARTING.
TA RA TA RA
THAT WOMAN IN THE ARENA-- SHE'S MY FRIEND, IVICH!
ACTUALLY, THE IDEA IS TO GRAB THE KIDS AN' HAVE LILA TELE-PORT US ALL TO HER DYSON SPHERE. NO MUSS, NO FUSS-- IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE, WE GONE.


MAKES SENSE--AFTER THIS MORNING'S FIASCO, IT'LL BE A LONG WHILE BEFORE I TRUST MY OWN TELEPORTING TALENT AGAIN.
I WONDER IF I'LL EVER BE ABLE TO?
IT'S A FIERCELY FOUGHT DUEL--
--IVICH'S FOE, A SHAPE-CHANGER--
--THE TWO COMBATANTS EVENLY MATCHED...
...THE WOMAN'S KEEN BLADE MORE THAN COMPENSATED FOR...
...BY THE SNAKE'S BULK AND ARMOR-LIKE HIDE.
ONCE SHE'S DISARMED, HOWEVER...
...THE FIGHT'S AS GOOD AS OVER...
...UNTIL, WITHOUT WARNING...
IVICH!?!
ALI, DON'T! YOU'LL BLOW OUR COVER!

I'M SORRY, SAM-- SHE'S MY FRIEND, I WON'T ABANDON HER!
DAZZLER!
I'LL GENERATE A LIGHT AND COLOR BLAST TO DAZZLE THE BRUTE!
I KNEW YOU'D COME BACK!
YOUR LIGHTSHOW WON'T HOLD RAY LONG.
THIS'LL SEND HIM TO DREAM-LAND...
...AND THIS TO--!
KWAK!
NO, IVICH! I DIDN'T SAVE YOU JUST SO YOU COULD MURDER HIM!
WHAT D'YOU THINK WE'RE HERE FOR, SILLY-- THE NAME OF THE GAME IS KILL OR BE KILLED-- WE'RE PROFESSIONALS, THIS IS OUR JOB.
THAT'S WHY THOSE RUBES IN THE STANDS PAY TOP DOLLAR-- BECAUSE THIS IS REAL! THEY WANT FAKE, THEY'LL WATCH WRESTLING.
IF YOU'RE SQUEAMISH, HON, MOVE ASIDE-- HERE COMES THE MAIN EVENT! WISH ME LUCK, SEE YOU SOON!
ALI CAN'T BELIEVE HER EYES--
--THAT THE WOMAN SHE KNEW COULD EVER BE A PARTY TO FIGHTING, OR KILLING, THESE INNOCENT CHILDREN.
THWAM!
KRAK!
THE MEN STRIKE IMMEDIATELY, WITH RUTHLESS FEROCITY AND, AT FIRST, THE MUTANTS ACT CONFUSED, UNSURE OF THEMSELVES OR WHAT TO DO.


BUT THEN, THEIR TRAINING REASSERTS ITSELF--MAGMA COUNTER-ATTACKING...
...BY PULLING A FOUNTAIN OF MOLTEN ROCK FROM DEEP WITHIN THE EARTH TO CREATE A MINI-VOLCANO IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ARENA.
TAKE A HIKE, HORSEFACE! THIS BOUT'S JUST BEEN CALLED!
WHAT THE HECK IS WITH AMARA?! SHE CAME CLOSE TO FRYIN' THAT WOMAN!
CRIPES--THIS REMINDS ME OF WHEN BOBBY 'N' ME WERE GLADIATORS IN NOVA ROMA! WE WERE DRUGGED, SO WE'D GO CRAZY IN THE COLISEUM AN' TRY TO KILL EACH OTHER EVEN THOUGH WE WERE BUDDIES!
HAS THE SAME HAPPENED HERE, TO THEM?!!
WHOUFLF!
I CAN'T LET YOU HURT ANYONE, MAGMA.
AS WITH THE SNAKE-MAN, ALISON'S BRILLIANT LIGHTSHOW DAZZLES THE YOUNG NOVA ROMANI--MOMENTARILY PARALYZING BOTH MIND AND BODY.
AT WHICH POINT, ALMOST ON CUE, EVERY EYE IN THE ARENA GOES FROM ITS FLOOR TO THE CEILING, AS--
MUTANTS!
HEED MY WORDS, AND OBEY!
RRRRRRRRRRRRIPP!


I AM MAGNETO!
I HAVE COME, AT THE BEHEST OF YOUR MENTOR, TO SUMMON YOU TO THE DEFENSE OF YOUR WORLD!
TIME IS FLEETING--WE HAVE NONE TO WASTE--LET THOSE WHO WILL JOIN ME STEP FORWARD. TO THOSE WHO WILL NOT--HINDER US, INTERFERE IN ANY WAY, AT YOUR PERIL.
MAGNETO--HE'S A VILLAIN, BUT SOMETHIN' IN HIS VOICE MAKES ME BELIEVE HIM!
SUNSPOT, C'MON! HERE'S OUR TICKET OUTTA THIS MESS!
YOU GO, CANNONBALL. WE CANNOT.
WE MUST STAY WITH THE GLADIATORS, COMRADES, WE HAVE GOOD REASON.
YOU CAN'T MEAN THAT, AMARA!
TRUST US, MAGIK, I BEG YOU. AS YOU DO WHAT YOU MUST, SO SHALL WE.
AND, WITH THAT, THE GLADIATORS STEAL AWAY...
THEIR CHOICE IS MADE, LAD, THERE IS NO MORE YOU CAN DO.
BULL! WE MIGHT'A SAVED 'EM, GIVEN A DECENT CHANCE!
WHATEVER'S GOING ON, MISTER, IT BETTER BE IMPORTANT, 'CAUSE IF YOU'RE SPINNING A LINE--!
YOU WILL SEE, CANNONBALL.
YOU WILL LEARN.
TO BE CONTINUED--IN MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS II #1--AND THEN, IN NEW MUTANTS #30: The SINGER and her SONG

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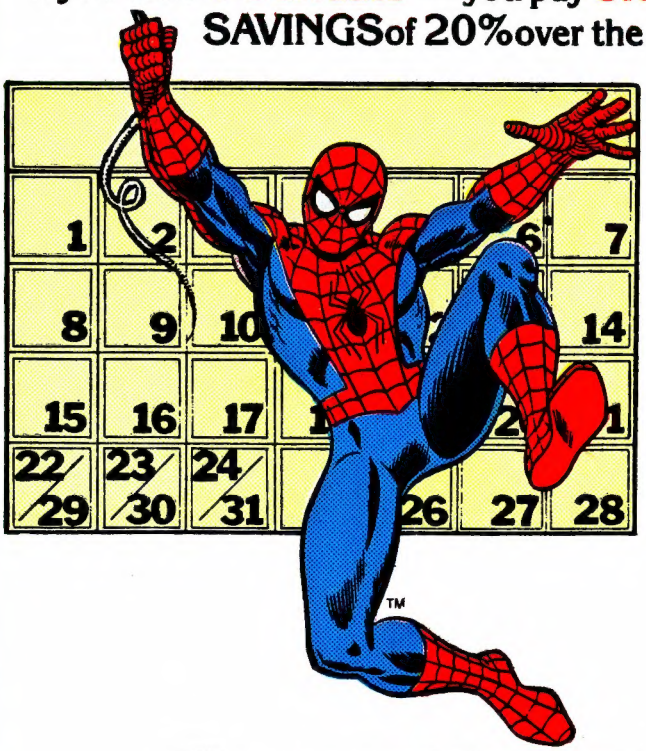

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